



The Official Journal of the Foundation For Amateur Radio, Inc.

SEPTEMBER 1996



**FCC Highlights • ARRL Report • VE Exams Schedule
Public Service Report • DX Column • Regional Hamfests
Club Reports • Shack Sales • Much More!**



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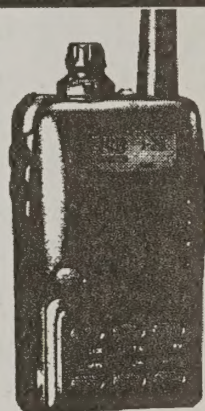
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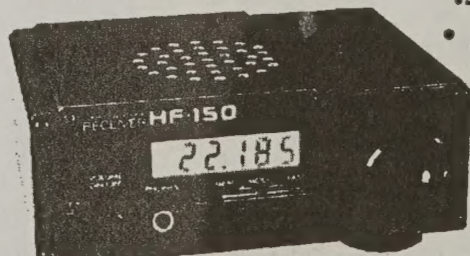
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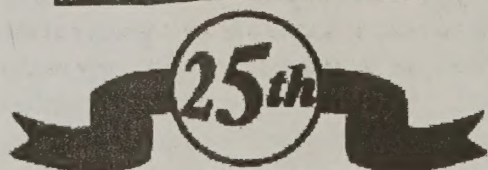
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Regional Hamfests and Other Events

August 4	Delaware-Lehigh ARC - Easton, PA
August 4	Winchester Hamfest, Berryville, VA
August 12	Tompkins Co. ARC - Dryden, NY
August 15/18	International EME Convention - Bowie, MD
August 18	Sussex ARA/Delmarva - Georgetown, DE
August 24	West Virginia State Hamfest and Conv., Jackson's Mill, WV
August 25	Mid-Atlantic DX & Repeater Assn., Brunswick, MD
September 7	Radio Assn of Erie - Erie, PA
September 8	Foundation for Amateur Radio FAR Fest
September 15	Wheeling Hamfest & Computer Show, Wheeling, WV
September 21/22	Virginia Beach Hamfest, Virginia Beach, VA
September 21	Buffalo Hamfest - Hamburg, NY
September 21	Western NY Section Convention - Hamburg, NY
September 22	South Jersey Radio Assn - Mt. Holly, NJ
September 28	ARA of the Southern Tier - Horseheads, NY
October 13	Columbia Amateur Radio Assn. Hamfest, W. Friendship, MD
October 20	RF Hill ARC - Sellersville, PA
October 27	Penn Wireless Assn - Newtown, PA
October 27	Mason-Dixon - Westminster, MD



(Photo by David Abbou, KE3ID)

On The Cover

Future ham? Pictured on the cover of this months' *Auto Call* is Hannah Abbou, daughter of David Abbou, KE3ID. Hannah, who just turned three years old, loves to watch her dad on the radio and even repeats his call sign. She likes to grab her dad's 2 meter radio and pretend to talk on it. David Abbou is a member of the Southern Maryland Amateur Radio Club. Maybe Hannah will be too someday!



MEMBER CLUBS

Adams County Amateur Radio Society
Alexandria Radio Club
Amateur Radio Research and Develop. Corp.
AMSAT - Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation
Anne Arundel Radio Club
Antietam Radio Association, Inc.
ARINC Amateur Radio Club
Arlington Amateur Radio Club
Baltimore Amateur Radio Club
Baltimore Radio Amateur Television Society
Capital City Amateur Radio Society
Capital Hill Amateur Radio Society
Carroll County Amateur Radio Club
Central Maryland Amateur Radio Club
Chaverim of the Greater Washington Area
Columbia Amateur Radio Association
Culpeper Amateur Radio Association
D-MARC - Digital Mid-Atlantic Radio Council
Department of State Amateur Radio Club
Explorer Post #80 - Amateur Radio
Fauquier Amateur Radio Association
Frederick Amateur Radio Club
Frederick Amateur Repeater Group
Goddard Amateur Radio Club
Green Mountain Repeater Association
Hanover Area Hamming Association
Herndon Repeater Group
Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club
IBM Amateur Radio Club
Johns Hopkins University APL ARC
Kent Island Amateur Radio Club
Laurel Amateur Radio Club
Leisure World Amateur Radio Club
Loudoun Amateur Radio Group
MD/DC MARS (Navy Marine) Association
MADRAS
Maryland Emergency Phone Net
Maryland FM Association
Maryland Mobileers Amateur Radio Club
Mercury Amateur Radio Assn., NE Area
Metropolitan Communications Network
Metrovision Amateur TV Club

Mid-Atlantic DX & Repeater Assn.
Montgomery Amateur Radio Club
Montgomery Auxiliary Communications Service
Moose Amateur Radio Club
Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club
National Capitol ARES Council
National Capitol DX Association
Naval Research Laboratory Radio Club
NOAA Amateur Radio Club
North Point FM Association
Northern Virginia FM Association
Northern Virginia Radio Club
Ole Virginia Hams Amateur Radio Club
Opequon Radio Society
Pentagon Amateur Radio Club
Potomac Area VHF Society
Potomac Valley Radio Club
Prince George's Wireless Association, Inc.
Prince George's County ARES/RACES
Quarter Century Wireless Association, Inc.
Baltimore Chapter #20
Del-Mar-VA Chapter #150
Shenandoah Valley Chapter #137
Vic Clark Chapter #91
Washington Chapter #23
Rock Creek Amateur Radio Association
St. Mary's County Amateur Radio Association
Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club
Southern Maryland Amateur Radio Club
Southern Patuxent Amateur Radio Club
Stafford Amateur Radio Assn.
Sterling Park Amateur Radio Club
Summit Amateur Radio Association
Tri-County Amateur Radio Club
T-MARC, Middle Atlantic Repeater Council
Vienna Wireless Society
Voice of America Amateur Radio Club
Waldorf Repeater Support Group
Washington Adventist Amateur Radio Assn.
Washington Area Young Ladies ARC
Woodbridge Wireless, Inc.

NEXT FOUNDATION MEETING

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, Inc. meets at 8: p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. **Visitors are always welcome!** The next meeting will be held September 11th at the Lee Center, Alexandria, Virginia. Take Capitol Beltway to Exit 1 (US 1 North). North to the second traffic light, left on Gibbon Street to Fayette. Left on Fayette to dead end at Lee Center Parking Lot. The meeting is conducted in the conference room near the main office of the center.

**Talk-in on
146.55**



American Radio Relay League Report

By John Swafford,
W4HU

The ARRL Report provides a brief summary of information published in the ARRL LETTER and other reports. The LETTER provides timely news of interest to active Radio Amateurs. Any League member may subscribe to the ARRL LETTER.

ARRL Board Highlights

The ARRL Board of Directors met July 18-20, 1996, at Rocky Hill, Connecticut. The following is a summary of the meeting highlights:

The Executive Vice President was instructed to use all available means to vigorously oppose commercial encroachment into the 2-meter and 70-cm bands.

Staff and counsel were directed to coordinate with FCC, and pursue in Congress, legislation that would permit FCC to temporarily suspend amateur operator licenses upon presentation of evidence sufficient to establish intentional violation of the Communications Act or Part 97. Such suspensions would be effective immediately upon issuance by FCC of a suspension order.

The League will petition the FCC for a rule change to permit Advanced class volunteer examiners to administer all examination elements required for the General class license.

The League's Ad Hoc Committee on Repeater Coordination was authorized to continue discussions with the National Frequency

Coordinators Council.

In a separate repeater matter, the Board authorized staff, in exchange for supplying repeater data without constraint, to reimburse each recognized local frequency coordination body an amount equivalent to the cost of collecting such data independently.

The WRC-99 Planning Committee was authorized funding to conduct a survey as part of its work in developing recommendations for the ARRL Board. The international Morse code requirement is one topic on the WRC-99 agenda.

The Board congratulated the organizers, competitors, judges, and referees of the recently-concluded World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) held in San Francisco and thanked the FCC for its support of this unique event.

The Executive Committee will review current League documentation for the purpose of developing a Board Member Code of Ethics.

The membership Services Committee will study compliance with band plans, and report back to the Board. The committee also was asked to request the DXAC to study the rules concerning DXCC accreditation.

The Contest Advisory Committee will study ways of better incorporating 50 MHz into existing ARRL contest.

The Digital Committee, having completed its work, was discharged with the thanks of the Board. The membership of the Future Systems Committee will be expanded.

Michelle Ritterbusch, N1PNT, was named recipient of the Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award for 1995. Frank Witt, AI7H, won the 1995 ARRL Technical Excellence Award for his series of articles, "How to Evaluate Your Antenna Tuner," in the April and May, 1995, issues of QST. Robert

Continued next page

Josuweit, WA3PZO, won the 1995 Philip J. McGan Silver Antenna Award.

Andrew Blackburn, III, WD4AFY, won the 1995 Herb S. Brier Instructor of the Year Award. The 1995 Professional Educator of the Year Award went to David Reeves, KF6PJ. Joseph Tokarz, KB9EZZ, was designated recipient of the 1995 Professional Instructor of the Year Award. Rick Teasetano, N5KLM, won the 1995 Excellence in Recruiting Award.

Full details will appear in September QST.

Ham Radio Has Movie Roles

Ham radio plays a part in two recently released movies. One is in the hugely popular sci-fi thriller Independence Day, reports Bob Inderbitzen, NQ1R, of ARRL's Educational Activities Department. "Briefly, and without spoiling the plot, the US Space Command uses Amateur Radio to disseminate instructions for a worldwide offensive against the bad aliens," Inderbitzen explained. Commercial communication links are in a shambles in the wake of the aliens' destructive path, and their huge orbiting spacecraft have disabled or destroyed satellites. Hams spread the word using none other than Morse code. "And, straight keys and keyers were prevalently shown," he said.

Inderbitzen points out that additional information about the movie can be found at <http://www.id4.com> on the World Wide Web.

Ham radio also figures in the plot of Phenomenon, which stars John Travolta, Robert Duvall and Forrest Whittaker (as the ham). ARRL advised a member of the movie's technical crew and supplied ham radio publications and other paraphernalia which are visible in the movie ham shack. In one scene, Travolta decodes digital-mode signals in his head. Morse code is used in another scene, reports QST Assistant Technical Editor Bob Schetgen, KU7G.

League Receives ASAE Award of Excellence for SAREX

Because of its role in the SAREX program, the ARRL has been named one of 43 American Society of Association Executives "Award of Excellence" winners. The society presents the annual awards to associations "whose work best exemplifies the leadership role of associations in creating a positive business and social climate." Educational Activities Manager Rosalie White, WA1STO, submitted an entry earlier this year on behalf of the League. She cited the 50,000 school-age children and youth and their communities affected by SAREX and the involvement of more than 2000 volunteers. The League, AMSAT and NASA cooperate in making SAREX possible.

White's application points to the uniformly positive response from the educational community. She notes that the program has inspired curiosity and interest in mathematics, science and technology and that many schools have incorporated SAREX into their curricula.

Thousands of ARRL members have done legwork to make hundreds of Amateur Radio contacts with the astronauts successful." White's application states, "ARRL is proud to be a sponsor of SAREX because we know it affects the lives of thousands of youth and adults in a most positive way."

White said she was thrilled that the SAREX program won the ASAE competition. "We want it to signify a reward to the volunteers who work so hard to intrigue America's youth to learn about space, Amateur Radio and all aspects of the curricula that teachers innovatively tie in with SAREX," she added.

Award of Excellence winners will be recognized as a group at an August 11 ceremony in Boston during the ASAE Boston '96 annual meeting.

Continued next page

suggested retail price (MSRP) cuts range from 4% to 17.5%.

* The packet station aboard Mir has been confirmed as being inoperative by Shannon Lucid via voice on orbit 59150 on July 6 at 1840 UTC.
—AMSAT News Service

* CB Radio magazine has suspended publication. There will be no September 1996 issue. In letter to advertisers, Margaret Milanese, CB Radio's advertising manager, blamed "rapidly escalating production costs, particularly paper" for the move. Subscribers will get Popular Communications until publication of CB Radio resumes. Both magazines are products of CQ Communications Inc of Hicksville, New York.

* Price cuts are not just for cereal manufacturers anymore! Alinco has announced "sweeping price reductions to its dealers," effective July 1. The company says it's passing along savings resulting from a favorable dollar-yen exchange rate and from more efficient design and manufacturing techniques. Manufacturers

* The Collins Division of Rockwell has opened a new World Wide Web site. The site—at <http://www.cacd.rockwell.com>—includes a history of the Collins Radio Company that was incorporated by Art Collins, W0CXX, in 1933. Collins merged with Recoil in 1973 (click on News, then History).

* Newfoundland-Labrador will become a new Canadian section on January 1, 1998. Earlier this year, the Radio Amateurs of Canada board announced it would make the change in an effort to address "the unique and special needs and aspirations" of the area.—RAC

* Kenya has issued its first novice license. The call sign 5Z4RAN went to Anand Raicha of Kisumu on June 13. The "N" suffix indicates the license class and will be dropped when the licensee upgrades. Anad's dad is Max Raicha, 5Z4MR, who has represented the Radio Society of Kenya at IARU meetings.—Radio Society of Kenya.

NATIONAL CAPITAL ARES TRAINING INSTITUTE

No fewer than sixty amateur radio operators took part in the first ARES training program in recent years, held at the American Red Cross's National Disaster Operations Center in Falls Church, VA on May 4th.

A project of the National Capital ARES Council (NCAC) chaired by Jeannie Rexroad/N4ZGI, the program was structured along two tracks with 3-hour sessions repeated in the morning and afternoon. Track I was the ARE's "Introduction to Disaster," a video-based review of the organization's role and response in natural and man-made disasters.

Track II had three components: orientation on

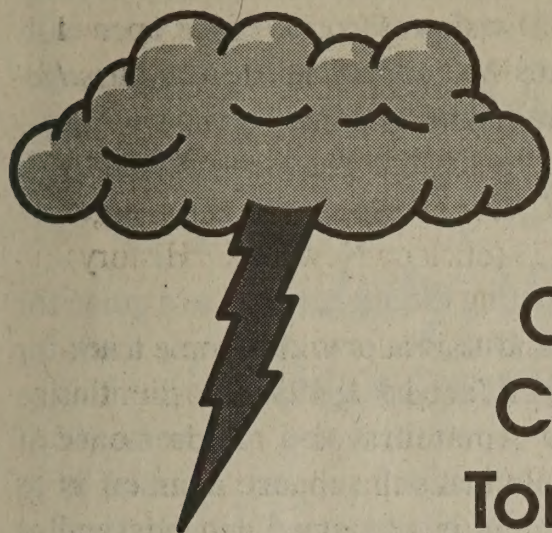
radio net procedures and the incident command system, introduction to ARES/RACES and the National Traffic System (NTS) message processing, and review of portable field stations and "go-kits" that covered antennas, power supplies, and even a complete APRS setup packaged in an attache case.

Funding for the institute and its materials was provided by a grant from the Foundation for Amateur Radio (FAR). A \$5 registration fee covered the pizza lunch. Advertising was done on area nets and through an ad in FAR's Auto Call.

The attendees were enthusiastic and attentive,

Continued on page 10

SPECIAL REPORT:



The Carroll County Tornado

At about 3:45 PM on Friday, 19 July 1996, what the National Weather Service classed a F3 tornado touched down in the Gamber area of Carroll County, MD. The tornado, with winds of about 180 MPH, was believed to be the worst to ever hit Carroll County, and was the worst to hit the state in a decade. Due to the nature of the storm, at least two to three touchdown points rotating around each other, the path of damage was 400 to 500 yards wide.

In anticipation of severe weather, the Central Maryland SKYWARN Net had activated prior to the storm, and the first reports of the actual touchdown came from amateur radio operators in the vicinity.

KG6TU, a Carroll County AEC, heard of the tornado touchdown while coming home from work at about 4:30 PM. Arriving at home shortly after 5:00 PM, he checked the Westminster two-meter repeater for SKYWARN and ARES activity. The SKYWARN Net was preparing to close down in the wake of the storm. After consulting with the Central Maryland SKYWARN Net director, N3REI, and the Carroll County SKYWARN Liaison AEC, N3TOT, who had already arrived at the scene of the touchdown, KG6TU activated the Carroll County ARES Net at about 5:40 PM on the Westminster repeater and the SKYWARN Net terminated operations.

Operating from his home station, KG6TU assumed the role of incident commander, acting as the first net controller and beginning to organize the ARES response. N3REI and another early responder, N3OXH, were directed to the Red Cross Emergency Shelter just being set up at the Gamber Fire Hall. As other stations became available, N3JIA was sent to assist N3TOT at the scene of the touchdown, while N3HYJ and N3GQK were directed to the Emergency Shelter. Others, including N3SOK, N3MNM, N3SCF, K3TAZ, and N3XLY were scheduled to arrive later to act as relief operators for the initial responders. KE3FL, Carroll EC, was initially unavailable, but was contacted by telephone answering machine and joined the operation at about 1000.

As the situation began to stabilize, it was decided that N3GQK would set up two military masts to improve the communications capabilities at the emergency shelter. Within a couple of hours of activation, reliable two-meter simplex, as well as repeater communications were established between the disaster scene and the emergency shelter. At that time, primary net operations were shifted to simplex, with N3GQK at the emergency shelter assuming primary net control, assisted by other operators at the shelter. KG6TU continued to act as incident commander, monitoring the repeater and simplex frequencies, and coordinating operator scheduling and other administrative matters.

As not all of the responding operators were regular Carroll County ARES participants, it was decided to use those operators who were regular Carroll ARES participants at the disaster scene, and use the other operators in support of the operations at the emergency shelter. Operators used at the disaster scene were N3TOT, N3JIA, N3HYJ, KE3FL, N3MNM, and KG6TU.

Due to the localized nature of the event, it was not necessary to pass any health and welfare traffic via the National Traffic System. Communications activity consisted of tactical communications falling into three categories: ARES net

Continued next page

administrative traffic, Red Cross logistical support traffic, and inquires between the disaster victims at the shelter and authorities at the tornado scene. The ARES net continued in operation until about 2 AM Saturday morning, and then reactivated at about 5 AM on Saturday morning. Operations continued until the Red Cross advised that ARES support would not be required after 5 PM on Saturday.

The Baltimore EC, WA3ZER, offered the support of the Baltimore ARES organization as needed. On Saturday morning, N3VEJ, Baltimore AEC, began at KG6TU's request to arrange for support from Baltimore ARES. Several other operators offered their services, including K3MTT, W3OWN, KA3ZCI, N3II, N3HCQ, and WB3LJK (Frederick County). Contact was also eventually established with the Frederick EC, N8AAY, who also offered the support of the Frederick ARES organization. As events transpired, only one of the Baltimore ARES operators, N3VSC was called upon to assist. Had the event been of longer duration, WB3LJK, and others were being scheduled to assist.

and the evaluations were overwhelmingly positive on both content and presenters. There were calls for more "hands-on," including net and message-handling practice, construction of antennas, etc. — and even for making the handouts available on disc....

NCAC is evaluating the suggestions as a guide for future sessions. One idea is to develop a track for representatives of "served agencies" to familiarize them with the capabilities and requirements of amateur communications support. Another is to devise sessions for handicapped and physically-challenged hams.

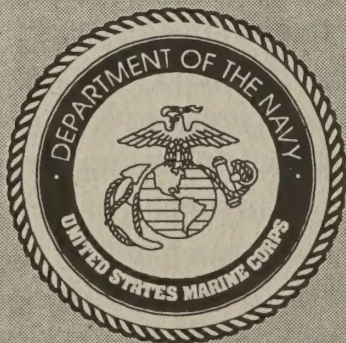
Thoughts on content, procedures, and materials are welcome. Send them to Lenny Schacter/N3RPQ, NCAC Secretary (1811 Quincy St., NW, Washington, DC 20011-5335) or post them to him @ WA3TAI.MD.

Alan Bosch/KD4FRK

H = 703/533-8377

W = 202/637-5193

Marine Corps Marathon



0530-1530(+/-) On Sunday,
October 27th

**Needed: A few good
men and woman**

Volunteers are needed (80 or so) to provide medical/support communications via ham radio for the 26th annual marathon. To volunteer, please contact the Marine Corps Marathon sign-up voice mail number at:

(703) 359-3414



FAR Meeting Minutes July 10, 1996 Alexandria, VA

* Executive Vice President Al Brown (WA3FYZ) convened the meeting shortly after 8:00PM at the Lee Center in Alexandria, Virginia.

* The trustees introduced themselves. (See attendees list on next page - Ed).

* The June minutes were amended to incorporate comments by Pat Kilroy (WD8LAQ) which corrected wording concerning the "Adopt-A-School" program; they were accepted as amended.

* Tony Young (WA3YLO) gave the Treasurer's report:

Savings Account - \$73,673

Checking Account - \$1912

Auto Call - The magazine shows a \$2111 loss as of July 10. Status of Accounts Receivable from advertising was not available at the time of this report.

FARFest - There is a positive balance of \$410. Charles Johnson (N3HFO), Treasurer, was treated with in/out surgery on Tuesday, July 9. He was expecting to return to work on Monday, July 15.

* AutoCall Magazine - Tony Young (WA3YLO) reported that classification reform as required by the US Postal Service will require an investment of about \$200 in CD ROMs and software. It might save about \$80 a month after implementation.

* Dennis Bodon (W4PWF) reported that the Arlington ARC had recommended (in a letter to Chuck Sommer over a month prior to the meeting) that the AutoCall club column area include publication of column headings for all FAR member clubs each month. The recommendation is that this be done whether or not a club column has been submitted. George Saunders (KR4MU) responded that this would entail an additional 10 to 12 pages each month. After additional discussion the recommendation was referred to the AutoCall Committee for action. Tony Young is to convey the matter to the Committee and Dennis Bodon is to work with the Committee in their consideration of it.

* Survivor's Assistance - Tony Young (WA3YLO) reported that he has an FT-1 and FT 1000 for sale. He advised that he has a lot of equipment on hand with more to come which had not yet been picked up. Sales were reported as "ongoing" but the equipment was recorded on several lists; a composite list was not available.

* Scholarship Committee - Hugh Turnbull (W3ABC) reported that \$50,000 in checks to disburse scholarship funds had been mailed on the morning of July 10. He advised that the Committee had met about a month previous, arrayed the nominations in a spreadsheet and then checked references for each nominee. The Committee's

Continued next page

deliberations resulted in awards to 56 winners. Notable among these were:

- the Columbia ARC's \$1000 award to Amy Chadwick of Kensington - five recipients from the Baltimore area; three were repeated awards - Mark Lazzaro (N3BVW) of Mt Airy, Maryland, of an all-ham family - Dana Eschelman (WS3L) of Fort Washington, Maryland.

Action on scholarships was reported as completed except that there were 62 certificates yet to be sent. News releases to media (which included club newsletters) totaled 190; 130 letters were sent to close competitors who were not winners.

Vice President Brown extended congratulations on a job well-done and requested Secretary Bates' action to mail 100 copies of Committee reports and press releases to FAR trustees.

* ARRL Report - Hugh Turnbull reported that some issues have surfaced in the relationship between ARRL and the FCC. One is concerned with the establishment of a national frequency coordinating body for repeater frequencies. Agreement among the various existing bodies is

needed and they need to achieve recognition and support among the members of the amateur community. They also need to be assured of FCC enforcement action when it is needed. In a parallel situation the Amateur Auxiliary members are continuing to build cases against those who violate statutes and regulations but the FCC doesn't act. It was noted that Ralph Haller, a strong proponent for a single point of contact within the amateur community for repeater coordination, has retired. The matter of the "Little LEO" problem was also discussed. This has been the subject of editorial comment in QST and AutoCall. In the activity of the working group at the FCC "sharing" of some UHF/VHF bands used by amateurs was the topic as it was originally proposed. This became a serious issue within the amateur community because it was perceived as a "reallocation" of spectrum. Hugh concluded his report on this matter with a recommendation that we "keep our cool".

Finally it was reported that Gate 1 and Gate 1A for the "Vanity Callsign" program have opened. The next gate was expected to open four to six weeks after Gate 1A. It was noted that a gate

Continued next page

Attendees at the July FAR meeting . . .

Tom Wolff	N3BXW
Tony Young	WA3YLO
Al Brown	WA3FYZ
Rosie Falcon	N3IVO
Ed Mumford	N3IRO
Mildred Mumford	N3KGQ
W. Page Pyne	WA3EOP
Jim Rose	N3FEW
Dennis Bodon	W4PWF
Jeanne Rexroad	N4ZGI
Mary Morris	N3TCI
Hugh Katz	KB3TB
John B. Wafford	W4HU
Hugh Turnbull	W3ABC
Roy Bates	N2CSQ
John Wood	WA5IPQ
George Saunders	KR4MU
Ruth Phillips	K3AGR

CMARC
Anne Arundel ARC & IBM-ARC
Antietam Radio Association (ARA) & MEPN
Baltimore ARC
CMARC & Frederick ARC
CMARC & Frederick ARC
ARA & Opequon Radio Society
SMARC
Arlington ARC
Alexandria ARC & NCAC ARES
Mt Vernon ARC
Voice of America ARC
QCWA Chapter 91 & DOSARC
FAR VP & Chair, Scholarship Committee
MADRA
Voice Of America RAC
Arlington ARC
Naval Research Lab ARC & Metrovision ARC

remains open once it has been opened.

* **FARFest (Gaithersburg Hamfest) Report** - The next FARFest Committee meeting will be at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, July 31, at the PG County EOC just off of Eastern Avenue 1-1/4 miles inside the beltway. Al Brown (WA3FYZ) reported that volunteers from member clubs are still need for various jobs on Friday, September 6, Saturday, September 7, and, particularly, on the day of the 'Fest: Sunday, September 8. He reminded everyone that member clubs are **obligated** to provide support for FAR activities. Those willing to volunteer should contact him for more information or to offer support. Mary Morris (N3TCI) advised that she would be recruiting volunteers at the Timonium HamFest on July 28.

OLD BUSINESS

* **NCAC ARES** - Jeanne Rexroad (N4ZGI) reported that the Institute held May 4th was quite successful and that another session for training is being considered for December 7.

NCAC ARES' last meeting was reported as having occurred at the NWS Picnic. During that session a training session to conduct some NWS training was discussed. The program is envisioned to provide training in the Basic 1 sequence during the first half of the day and Winter Storm training during the second half. Details have not been worked out as to location and recommendations for a site are sought. Al Brown asked if NCAC ARES wants FAR sponsorship but it was not known; their next meeting was reported as scheduled for July 20 at Fire Station 54 in Alexandria, Virginia.

* **Survivors' Assistance** - Tony Young (WA3YLO) reported that he would be responding to a donation from the Baltimore ARC. He advised that he would originate a letter to document the value of the equipment. This should realize about \$500 in revenue to FAR.

* Hugh Turnbull (W3ABC) recommended that a small folder describing FAR be developed and published. He noted that QCWA and RCA both have them. They could be mailed with scholarship checks, which would promote better understanding of the Foundation among the recipients and those in contact with them. Hugh offered to work with John Queen (KA0SEY), AutoCall Editor, in developing the document.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* The Maryland-DC QSO Party will take place on August 10-11 under the sponsorship of the ARA, as in the past. In reporting this, Page Pyne (WA3EOP) stressed the importance of club station participation. He noted that out-of-state clubs will be looking for club stations to contact since this adds an important increment to their overall point score. FAR member clubs are urged to participate as clubs and to encourage their membership to participate, also.

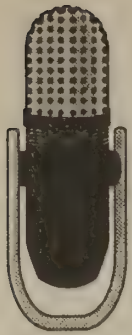
* The Mid-Atlantic DX and Repeater Association (MADRA) announced again that their second annual HamFest, "SweatFest96" would take place on Sunday, August 25, in downtown Brunswick, Maryland. This was noted as especially important since MADRA rescheduled their date from the originally-set July 28 after the Timonium HamFest was announced for that date.

* The next FAR meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 14, in Takoma Park, Maryland, in HMS Richards Building at Columbia Union College.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy Bates, N2CSQ/3
Recording Secretary



Traffic Fun

By Geri Sweeny,
N4GHI

QSL BUREAUS:

A worthwhile source for messages is QSL Bureaus. The following message was sent from Connecticut to several stations in Florida. "ARL Sixty Six W1 one 73" Consulting your ARL radiogram reference paper, you note that Sixty Six says, "DX QSLs are on hand for you at the QSL Bureau. Send _ self addressed envelopes." That's neat. When delivering the message, you fill in the blanks with the words following ARL Sixty Six in the message; i.e., W1 and one. And, for all the stations relaying the message, it only took 6 words. Now, when the station in Florida gets the message, to whom does the one envelope go? Two ways to figure it out. Consult a call book. The bureaus are listed at the beginning. Consult the preamble of the message which tells you from who, when, and where the message came. Often, the station relaying the message is not the station who sorts. But, she could certainly send you additional info, if you request it.

The only way you could improve this, would be for it to become legal for you to QSL via direct message, rather than sending a card via the mail. Not everyone would want to do it that way. Collecting cards (pictures) is interesting. But, it would be helpful to some.

MESSAGE ADDRESS:

N4GHI Geri Sweeney 4728 Neptune Dr
Alexandria VA 22309 703 360 3773

Certainly you need a name, address, and phone number. A complete name is wise. Messages

addressed to 'grandma', etc, don't supply enough information to search the telephone directory, if and when the phone number is garbled. Unfortunately, they get garbled a lot. Calls are great. You can always search the Call Book to get an address. I like to send the call first; then, the name. That's because, often an amateur is know in the local area. You can often break the sending station and tell them to go on to the text; i.e., you don't have to copy the entire address, if you know the person. When the message is going to Mr. and Mrs., it is generally written as M/M (a short cut that saves writing time).

It's a very handy to have a copy of Rand McNally's, "Zip Code Finder" as part of your traffic handling portfolio. It's quite useful to: 1) spell cities correctly, 2) look up zips, 3) check the map at the beginning of each state to see where the traffic might be going. The map shows the first 3 numbers of the zip. Thus, when you get a message addressed to Lively, VA, 22507; you can check the map and note quickly where the 225 section of Virginia is. Then, you might know who might be able to take it. 4) Useful info is given at the beginning of this paperback book; like, phone area codes by state, the correct state two-letter designator, etc.

Phone numbers are becoming essential. Many folks have unpublished numbers now. Another large group keeps an answering machine as a buffer between them and the world. And, they generally don't leave their name on the machine. Thus, it's becoming crucial to get the phone number through intact.

When you transmit (send) a message to another station, it's expected the receive station understands the format of a message. Many folks seem to talk a message to death. They announce the format: 'the check is', 'the date is', 'the telephone is'...

Additional words (other than the message info), need only be given if confusion might result without them.

Continued on page 44



Elmer's Corner

By Paul E. Wilkins,
AB4CY

THE QRP OPTION

Once we get that first ticket in hand, we begin dreaming of one of those multi-band, kilobuck black boxes with a multiband antenna et al. Unfortunately, we don't always have that spare kilo-buck, spare room or space for a skywire to match. So even when we're asked by a rank beginner, we tend to think that nothing but the best of the state of the art will cut the mustard.

It's a shame to think how many hopes get dashed by this attitude because it doesn't have to be this way at all. I think it discourages a lot of newcomers as well.

Take a cue from those people who have decided to bite the bullet and do it in spite of the prevailing attitude by settling for an inexpensive, single band, very small package that seldom, if ever, gets into the neighbors TV or VCR.

It fits in a small suitcase or less, travels well to the mountains or the beach, or even to a motel balcony. It's a QRP station setup that runs anywhere between one, five or at least less than 25 watts input power. That's less than one channel of the family stereo amp.

Do they talk to anybody? You bet they do, they have a long list of awards, it just might take a little longer, they aren't out of the game. Novices are limited to their lower power partly to reduce potential interference but also to show that you don't need a power house to be in the game. The 200 watt Novice limit was established long before

the industry standard of about 100 watts for a barefoot rig became common. Some of our overseas cousins have somewhat more severe power restrictions than we do.

The greater part of QRP operation takes place on CW because that mode does a pretty good job in overcoming weak signal conditions, but there are plenty of low-power SSB operators hanging out in the less crowded parts of the Phone bands.

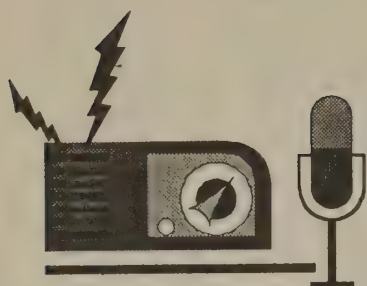
A nice QRP rig is less expensive than the average hand-held, and not much larger. The use of transceivers has taken over in the last 20 years, but if you still own a set of Drake "Twins" you realize that while a transceiver is nice, it certainly isn't essential. It isn't essential for QRP either. Most QRP ops are willing to put in a little more effort rather than pay for all the bells and whistles.

There are an increasing number of suppliers of kits for QRP gear which reduces the price further if your willing to do a little soldering. The kits are a far cry from the Heath variety, mainly because of the much reduced physical size.

Everything you need either comes with the kit or can be obtained at Radio Shack. They do provide a sense of accomplishment when you get them together and up and running. Ten-Tech is about to announce a new line of kit materials. I personally think the line supplied by S&S Engineering is extremely well designed, compact, and quite sophisticated as well as reasonably priced.

As with any transmitter, the antenna is critical. Fortunately antennas are relatively inexpensive if you have the time to do a little experimenting. Besides, you can learn a lot by doing

You can do a real Elmer favor by encouraging a new ham to give QRP a try. Follow through and help with construction advice and help with on the air testing. This might bring back a little of the excitement of hamming we've somehow lost by thinking you can't do it on your own.



DX DX DX

By John Kanode,
N4MM

JAPAN AMATEUR RADIO LEAGUE 70TH ANNIVERSARY AWARDS

The Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL) is celebrating its 70th anniversary and is offering a series of operating awards to all amateurs and SWLs. Contacts must be made during the time period of June 1, 1996 and May 31, 1997. The J Award requires contacts with at least seven different Japanese prefixes. The A Award requires contacts with 7 or more different DXCC Countries, not including JA/JD. The R Award requires contacts with seven or more different JARL memorial stations whose prefix is 8J or JA#RL, JA#YRL or JR6RL. The L award requires contacts with seven or more different Japanese stations from different grid squares in Japan. The 70 Award requires contacts with 70 or more different JA stations on one band or mode.

Applications for the awards will be accepted after August 1, 1996 and before December 31, 1997. Send a log extract and a fee of 6 IRC's to JARL Award Desk PO Box 377, Tokyo Central, Japan.

UPCOMING DX CONTESTS

Panama XXV Anniversary Contest	9/1/96
All Asian SSB DX Contest	9/7-8/96
LZ DX Contest	9/7-8/96
Worked All Europe SSB Contest	9/14-15/96
Scandinavian CW Activity Contest	9/21-22/96
CQ WW RTTY Contest	9/28-29/96
Scandinavian SSB Activity Contest	9/28-29/96

The DXCC backlog is essentially gone. As of the end of June, the DXCC Desk faced a mere 53 unprocessed applications with 5559 cards, a couple of days worth. In June they received 3Z8 applications with ZZ,176 cards and processed 414 applications with 30,041 cards, well off the pace of the previous month. Most computerized applications are being turned around in a few days.

According to all reports received, the recent WRTC was a big success. All 54 stations were on the air. Results have been posted on the DX and Contest Reflectors and the Packetcluster networks. (I managed to work all 54 stations and worked over Z50 QSO's with them on different bands and modes to earn all three awards that they were offering.) Plans are being considered to repeat the event in the year 2000.

The 1996 SEANET Convention will be held November 22, Z3 and Z4, 1996 in Madras, India. For more information send a request to: VUZGJR, PO Box 11Z7, Madras, India 600010, or E-Mail to: seanet96@indiatgate.com.

If you worked W1AW/3 during the IARU Contest in July, QSL requests go to ARRL HQ in Newington, CT. Please send SASE. This operation took place at the W3LPL station location in Maryland.

QSL after 29 years. Bill, K8CSG found a QSO with 5AITV in an old log that was 29 years old. W7WQR was the QSL manager and Bill sent him a QSL for this 29 year old QSO and got one back. 5A operations were quite active back 30 years ago.

The ARRL DXCC 2000 Committee held its first meeting in Rocky Hill, Connecticut, on Sunday, July Z1, 1996. Items on the agenda were:

- * History and cost of DXCC
- * International aspects
- * Discussion of the basis and purpose of DXCC
- * Discussion on how to seek membership input
- * Overall aspects of the current program

Public Information Coordinator Maryland/DC Section



by Philip Karras, KE3FL
Emergency Coordinator,
Carroll County, MD
Amateur Radio Emergency Service
3305 Hampton Ct.
Mt. Airy, MD 21771-7201
e-mail: ke3fl@access.digex.net

Three weeks ago I was writing but never finished. I was going to say that we had been very fortunate in the last few years to have had no demands made on the amateur emergency community to assist in a time of emergency. We have assisted in numerous public events and have participated in Simulated Emergency Tests but no emergency. This past weekend that all changed.

Our group has been assisting with the NWS SKYWARN nets and our repeater is now used when a weather alert is called. One was called on Friday, July 19, because of severe thunderstorms with possible tornadoes.

No tornado watch or warning was called for Carroll County, yet we experienced an F3 tornado about two miles north of Gamber, MD, fire station.

The 911 call was made by a ham receiving the call for assistance over our 145.410 repeater since all electricity, phones, and cell phones were out in the stricken area. We assisted the Red Cross for two days until their operation was called off even though cell phones were up and running a few hours after the storm passed.

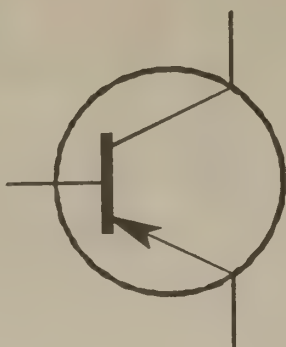
Our service during community events is often requested. At one event, we located a "lost" youngster almost before the net control station was

finished relaying the description. In another we helped with an air show. Here we were called in at the last minute as an afterthought. When the radios the air show people were using started failing, we were asked to supply "air boss" communications. Our involvement prevented some possible major problems. These communications were done on the two meter band, 144 through 148 MHz.

Another band used for local emergency service communications is from 440 to 460 MHz. This band is the one we have designated as our "interoffice" communications band. If ever the local hospital loses interoffice communications, we would set up a communications system using the 440 MHz band.

The amateur community could not operate on these bands without causing problems for the LEO's and vice versa.

Last, if these bands are given over to other than amateur use, the amateur community would have no bands with similar characteristics readily available to assist either during a local community disaster or during special events. For local emergency or special-event communications, the two meter and 70 centimeter bands fill the need in a way that other amateur bands/frequencies simply can not.



Amateur Radio Training

John Forrest WZ4A
6111 Burnett St., Alexandria, VA 22310
(703)971-3905

Please send announcements for training classes and club training contacts to WZ4A at the above address. Deadline is the 25th of the 2nd month prior to the *Auto Call* publication date (e.g., 25 December for the February issue).

Club Training Contacts

Alexandria RC	Rich Adamy KA4GFY	(703) 644-3920
Anne Arundel RC	Tony Young WA3YLO	(301) 262-1917
Arlington ARC	Mike Callaham NW3V	(703) 241-5618
Antietam Radio Assn.	Robert Long KD3JK	(301) 824-5132
BRATS (Baltimore)	Joe Chidester W3SHZ	(410) 602-0353
Baltimore ARC	Essex Community College	(410) 780-6854
Fauquier ARC	Neil Spokes AB4YK	(540) 364-3861
Frederick ARC	Hal Silverman W3HWC	(301) 831-7946
Herndon Rep't Gp	Michael Weber WB8RDN	(703) 450-2304
Laurel ARC	Pud Reaver W3DQI	(301) 498-6293
Madras	Larry Ziecheck	(301) 984-6113
MD Mobileers ARC	Bruce Colburn AA3KR	(410) 437-1891
Montgomery ARC	Rocky Jones KC4UXO	(301) 216-5210
Mt. Vernon ARC	John Forrest WZ4A	(703) 971-3905
NASA/Goddard ARC	Vikki Gigante KA3PVS	(301) 249-2609
Ole VA Hams ARC	Charles Dale WA4YGI	(703) 361-3091
Pentagon ARC	David Boyd K9MX	(540) 659-6241
St. Marys Co. ARC	Peter Butt WA3UMY	(301) 862-2214
Shenandoah Val ARC	Guy Black W4PSJ	(540) 722-4952
Southern MD ARC	Vic Curtis WA3YUV	(301) 888-1388
Southern Pax ARC	Dwayne Kincaid WD8OYG	(410) 586-2177
Stafford Adult Ed	Jerry Mullinix AC4HK	(540) 659-3905
Sterling Park ARC	Forrest Snyder N4UTY	(703) 430-4149
Tri-County ARC	John Creel WB3GXW	(301) 572-5124
Vienna Wireless	Paul Wilkins AB4CY	(703) 560-2779
Woodbridge Wireless	Jim Duffey WD4AIR	(703) 491-3170



Volunteer Examiner Cooperative

JOHN FORREST WZ4A
6111 Burnett St.
Alexandria, VA, 22310
(703) 971-3905

* Effective July 1, 1996, the Extra Class written exam question pool (Element 4B) will change. It is anticipated that the new question pool will be significantly different from the old pool. Be sure to use study materials appropriate for the current question pool.

* The maximum exam fee has been raised by the FCC to \$6.05.

* Copies of the complete (as of date) 1996 VEC Exam schedule from the *Auto Call* database are available. To obtain a copy, please send a large, self-addressed envelope with sufficient postage to cover 10 letter-size pages along with \$2.00 to cover copying costs to WZ4A at the above address.

* **ATTENTION VE's:** It's time to plan your 1997 test dates. 1997 dates will appear in Autocall soon. Also, copies of the 1997 AUTOCALL exam schedule will be distributed to local ham radio stores around the middle of December. Please send your 1997 information to WZ4A as soon as possible."

1996 Schedule of Examinations

September 1 (Sunday)	Landover, MD - D.C.M. ARC (ARRL VEC) Walk-In Contact: Freddie Battle NG3G 202)546-9348 (Day) (301)773-2898 (Evening)
September 14 (Saturday)	Alexandria, VA - Mt. Vernon ARC (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: Frank Mackey N4GUS (703)455-1510 Note: Temporary location change: Call for directions.
	Davidsonville, MD - Anne Arundel Radio Club (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: Bob Israel WC3I (301)262-5083
September 21 (Saturday)	Laurel, MD - Laurel ARC (Laurel VEC) Pre-Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In Contact: John Creel WB3GXW (301)572-5124 after 6 PM

September 24 (Tuesday)	Glen Burnie, MD - Maryland Mobileers ARC (Laurel VEC) Pre-Registration Requested, Limited Walk-In Contact: Jerry Gavin NU3D (410)761-1423
September 27 (Friday)	Stafford, VA - Fredericksburg VE Team/Stafford ARA (ARRL VEC) Walk-In. Contact: Carolyn Cavanagh AC4SK (540)373-7076 Jim McCloud N4LZJ (540)786-8012
October 6 (Sunday)	Landover, MD - D.C.M. ARC (W5YI VEC) Walk-In Contact: Freddie Battle NG3G (202)546-9348 (Day) (301)773-2898 (Evening)
October 12 (Saturday)	Alexandria, VA - Mt. Vernon ARC (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: Frank Mackey N4GUS (703)455-1510 Note: Temporary location change. Call for directions.
	Davidsonville, MD - Anne Arundel Radio Club (Laurel VEC) Walk-In Contact: Bob Israel WC3I (301)262-5083
	Cumberland, MD - Mountain ARC (Mount. ARC VEC) Walk-In Contact: Leo Patterson KQ8E (304)289-3576, Gay Rembold W3DFW (301)724-0674
October 17 (Thursday)	Towson, MD - Baltimore ARC (ARRL VEC) Pre-Registration/Walk-In Requirements Unknown Contact: HAM-TALK (410)426-8255
October 19 (Saturday)	Laurel, MD - Laurel ARC (Laurel VEC) Pre-Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In Contact: John Creel WB3GXW (301)572-5124 after 6 PM
October 27 (Sunday)	Hagerstown, MD - Antietam Radio Assn. (ARRL VEC) Pre-Registration Requested - Some Walk-Ins Accepted Contact: Bob Long KD3JK (301)824-5132 Evenings Before 9PM

**November
16
(Saturday)**

Laurel, MD - Laurel ARC (Laurel VEC)
Pre-Registration Desirable, Limited Walk-In
Contact: John Creel WB3GXW (301)572-5124 after 6 PM

**November
23
(Saturday)**

**Fredericksburg, VA - Fredericksburg VE Team/Stafford ARA
(ARRL VEC) Walk-In.** Contact: Carolyn Cavanagh AC4SK
(540)373-7076. Jim McCloud N4LZJ (540)786-8012

**November
26
(Tuesday)**

Glen Burnie, MD - Maryland Mobileers ARC (Laurel VEC)
Pre-Registration Requested, Limited Walk-In
Contact: Jerry Gavin NU3D (410)761-1423

**December
1
(Sunday)**

Landover, MD - D.C.M. ARC (W5YI VEC) Walk-In Contact: Freddie
Battle NG3G (202)546-9348 (Day) 301)773-2898 (Evening)

- Remember to bring your license when upgrading! -

-TRAINING CLASSES -

NOVICE/TECHNICIAN COURSE: The Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club will present an entry-level amateur radio training course to prepare students for the Novice and/or Technician class license exams. Morse code instruction will be available. The course will meet in Alexandria, VA from 7:30 to 9:30 PM on Wednesday evenings starting in mid-September. Dates and location to be announced later. There is no charge for the course; however, students will be required to provide their own study materials at a cost of approximately \$25. Contact John Forrest, WZ4A at (703)971-3905 for more information and to sign up.

NOVICE/TECHNICIAN COURSE: The Montgomery Amateur Radio Club will present an entry level amateur radio course to prepare students for the Novice and/or Technician class license exams. The course will include Morse code instruction. The course will meet at Gaithersburg High School on each Tuesday and Thursday in October. Exams will be given on October 31. Contact Rocky Jones KC4UXO at (301) 216-5210 for more information and to sign up.



Antietam Radio Association

Meetings: First and Third Tuesday of the month at 8 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Washington County Regional Airport, Showalter Road, Hagerstown, Maryland.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 52, Hagerstown, MD. 21741

Nets: Tuesday 7 p.m. 146.940 MHz.; Wednesday 7 p.m. 447.975 MHz.; Thursday 7 p.m. 147.090 MHz.

Repeaters: 147.09+ and 146.94 -.

Information: Donnie Sue Mulligan/
KB3AOO (301) 582-2984

We had some General classes starting Saturday morning, May 11th through June 15. I was in those classes, didn't miss a one, and I passed my written test on June 16th. All I have to do to be in General Class is pass my 13 WPM Morse Code Test. I tried on June 16th and again on July 28th. I didn't pass but maybe next time, or two, or three.

The instructors were very intelligent...I learned a lot from all of them. We had Charlie Anderson/NF3X, Tommy McCraw/K3KGF, Al Boyers/N3NVT, Bob Long/KD3JK, and Page Pyne/WA3EOP teaching theory. Carlo Belella/K3ABH and Bob Knibb/K3ME for Morse Code. Thank you, gentlemen. You are GREAT HAMs! Now, how about an Advance Course.

Before Field Day, Bob Long was on Channel 25 for 'Today In The Valley' with Glenn Presgraves, Thursday morning, June 20 and told the viewers about "Amateur Radio Week" culminating with Field Day. On Saturday June 22, Mark Kraham/WB8ZLQ, the assignment editor of WHAG, sent Glenn Fortinberry with a news crew from Hagerstown to our Field Day site on Potomac Edison Complex and did a portion of their newscast at 11 p.m. about our Field Day. I have both on video tape and would like anyone that is interested to see it. Thanks to Mark Kraham, Glenn Presgraves,

Glenn Fortinberry, Bob Long, Amanda Daywalt/N3TVD and several others that were interviewed and worked (played) for the ARA Field Day.

The following Sunday, June 30, my Letter To The Editor was in THE HERALD-MAIL telling how HAM RADIO is MAGIC. Do you agree?

I would like to take this opportunity to THANK Amanda Daywalt/N3TVD for the effort she put forth in getting this Field Day together...she did a wonderful job!

There is much more about Field Day that I will learn, and will fill you in later.

We start on our two meetings a month, the first and third Tuesdays in September. We had the first Tuesday only for meetings in July and August.

Until next time.. 73, Donnie Sue/KB3AOO



Arlington Amateur Radio Club

Meeting: Third Tuesday of each month, 7:30 P.M., Red Cross building, 4333 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, VA. Nonmembers welcome!
Net: Tuesdays (except meeting nights), 7:30 P.M., 144.87/145.47 Mhz FM.

Information: Mike Callaham, NW3V @
WA3TAI, callaham@CapAccess.org,
(703) 241-5618.

LLBBS: Area 1 of Beachcomber Joe's BBS
(703) 243-0024.

Dennis, W4PWF called the July 16th meeting to order at 1942L. Members present were:

Tom Protz	N4BYF
Dennis Bodson	W4PWF
Jack Reed	WA4FXX
Michael Callaham	NW3V
Gerald Adkins	N4GA
Mike Skelly	KA8OPJ

Allan Borch	KD4FRK
Chester Summitt	KB4UGF
Walt Parsons	KT4EL
George Saunders	KR4MU

Former member of the AARC Jim Stoneback, K4AXF visited and requested that he be reinstated as a member of the AARC. The voice vote was unanimous. Welcome back Jim. Randy Kelly, WB4MJF, also a former member of AARC was a visitor.

Dennis, W4PWF thanked Joe, AB4RA for getting his report into the Beacon, at the last minute. Joe, the secretary also appreciates your effort, since he was not at the last meeting.

Jack WA4FXX reported on Field Day. Although the Alexandria ARC ran the show, two members of the Arlington ARC, Jack and Mike NW3V, were present. Saturday night three HF stations were kept operational. Mike and Jack attempted to make a satellite contact, but were unsuccessful. Mike spent the night. A total of 12 hams were present. As usual, Gerry, N3EVT and Mary Elizabeth cooked a superb breakfast, but too many of us were not present to enjoy the feast. The Arlington ARC was not well represented. Next year we shall be! Roger?

It was suggested that the Arlington ARC have an e-mail address that could be queried for information. Mike, NW3V has included his e-mail addresses in the information block of the Beacon. They are NW3V@WA3TAI.MD.USA.NOAM or callaham@CapAccess.org.

We discussed the mailing of an invitation to the new and upgraded hams in Arlington County, to join Arlington ARC. All agreed that it was a good idea and a reasonable effort to bring more hams into the Arlington ARC would be a worthwhile effort. Dennis, W4PWF recently acquired a list from ARRL indicating the new and upgraded hams in Arlington County. It was decided that we would prepare a Promotional Arlington Beacon, to include the history of the AARC and a summary of typical events, in the near future and

send it to the hams on the list.

George, KR4MU and Dennis, W4PWF reported on the recent FAR meeting. Hugh Turnbull downplayed the recent discussion on the loss of 2M and 70cm bands. But, the consensus of the board was that we need to fight the proposal to win and keep these important amateur bands. The proposal is Industry motivated and they may overwhelm amateur support. This is especially true due the fact that Canada and Mexico hams do not have the use of these bands.

Jack, WA4FXX reported that the Smithsonian Institution amateur radio station in the Museum of American History will operate a Special Events station at the museum on August 10 and 11, to celebrate the 150 anniversary of the founding of the Smithsonian Institution. Jack said that the specific frequencies had not been selected, but that they would operate in the 2, 20 and 40 meter bands. The station call sign for the event will be NN3SI.

George KR4MU reported that during the recent Hurricane Bertha activity that the Alpha Net received interference (obnoxious and no ID) on 14.325 and 3.9207. He is sending a letter to ARRL. The general consensus was that FCC will not respond. Dennis, W4PWF suggested that the best alternative is to continue to operate and ignore the interference. When and if life and safety is at stake — FCC will nail the offenders. Otherwise, we amateurs will have to take care of the interference ourselves.

Dennis, W4PWF stated that he had discussed his letter to the FAR concerning the publication of club headers, with pertinent information — even if a club does not make a submission to the AutoCall. The consensus was that the idea had merit, but that it would have to be considered in detail.

Jack WA4FXX reported on an article A Comparison of HF Digital Protocols, by Dennis, W4PWF, et al, in the July 1996, QST (pgs. 35-39). Dennis' finding and recommendations will be the program for our meeting on August 20.

The Program — Mike, NW3V (our president and resident professor) presented an interesting program on how and why the world wide web works.

First, he drew a sketch on the green board to illustrate how the various computer hardware and software components fit together to provide access to the world wide web.

For the next hour, Mike wove a web on his computer. Then Jack, WA4FXX demonstrated a number of important web sites related to propagation.

73, Walt KT4EL



Baltimore Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: Meetings: Twice monthly, 7:30 pm at Towson Presbyterian Church, Chesapeake and Highland Avenues, Towson, Md.. -First Wednesday of the month -business meeting, Third Wednesday of the month - program.

Repeaters: W3FT/RPTR 146.67(-), 224.24 (-) (no PL) and 449.625(-)(PL 107.2) Note: two meter/220 Mhz. repeaters are linked.

Club Net: Every Tuesday night at 8:30 pm on 146.67/224.24.

NTS Net: Daily at 6:30 pm on 146.670/224.240

Club BBS: (410) 252-6238 (min. 2400 baud)

Information: (410) HAMTALK

Greater Baltimore Hamboree & Computerfest/Maryland State ARRL Convention information: (410) HAM-FEST or (800) HAM-FEST.

Club Address: BARC, Inc., P.O. BOX 120, Reisterstown MD 21136

With the coming of Fall and the new school year, BARC will again be meeting at Dulaney High School. The exact date of the changeover from meeting at Towson Presbyterian Church (as we do in the summer) has not been determined yet, so

keep an ear open on 146.670 (-) if you're coming to our first meeting in September and need directions to the meeting place. We hope you can also join the bunch of us that have a "meeting after the meeting" at a local diner.

BARC has new officers as a result of elections held at the second meeting in June. Don, N2MCG, won re-election as president; Jerry, N3SOK, is our new vice-president; Nelson, W3BGX, was re-elected as treasurer; Ed, N3WJA, is our new corresponding secretary; and Rusty, N3WKE, is our new recording secretary.

At our second meeting in July, Steve, KE3TW, gave a intriguing presentation on heart pacemakers and how they might be affected by RF. Pacemakers have come a long way in forty years, from being simple pulse generators that stimulated the heart 60 or 70 times a minute whether it needed it or not, to sophisticated devices capable of not only determining whether the heart needs a "shot" but also capable of determining the level of activity of the wearer and adjusting the heart's rate accordingly.

Steve also informed us that under most circumstances, hams need not worry about their gear causing problems with their pacemakers as long as they follow good station practices and keep the RF out of the shack as much as possible.

On Sunday, 30 June, Bill, WA3ZER, had fun with about 6 or 7 foxhunters. The usual practice with BARC foxhunts is for the fox to set up someplace in a spot in or near Baltimore City or County. That makes for a fairly short hunt and keeps the driving down to a minimum. It also gave us some bad habits. Well, Bill broke us of those habits by stumping us with his operation from WA3NAN at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Beltsville. As the saying goes, "Do not assume, because when you assume....." Next time, we'll be a little more open-minded about where the fox could be.

.... 73 de N3NYC/Hale



Carroll County Amateur Radio Emergency Team & Radio Club

Address: Carroll County Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 2099, Westminster, MD 21158.

Repeaters: 2M: 145.410-, 70cm: 449.875,
6M: 53.090.

BBS: 145.03 & 446.075.

Nets: Tuesdays 8:30 p.m. local CARET Net
145.410-. First Wednesday: 8:00 p.m. local,
Mason Dixon Swap Net 145.410-.

Club Meetings: Business meeting Second
Monday of the month at the EOC in
Westminster. 7:30 p.m. local, talk-in: 145.410-
Program meeting: Last Wednesday of the
month at the EOC in Westminster. 7:30 p.m.
local, talk-in: 145.410-.

The summer keeps rolling along and it is August already. July was another busy month, full of public service to Carroll County. As all public events that Club members participate in are usually interesting, educational, and fun - the communications aid that the Club members provide for the agency that is served has been greatly appreciated.

Starting off with the "Country Fest 96" on July 7th. This time we not only were able to provide communications help to the Westminster Volunteer Fire Company, we got to see and be at a great country western concert! I thank N3KTX and the Westminster VFD for inviting to be part of their great show. Thanks to N3JIA, N3TOT, N3XLY, N3MYJ, N3RKI, N3PPO, WX3F, and (from the Hanover club) N3VXQ, N3VTR, and N3UYM.

Weekly ARES Nets, the SET, Field Day, working with the various public service events, and always asking for some one to be a Net Control Station for a day. What I am talking about? You see the events that prepare us for an emergency! An emergency can happen at any time, and it is up to those that are available, to be prepared to respond

when called! On Friday, July 19, at about 4:30 PM, a tornado touched down in Gamber, Carroll County, MD. It was classified as an F3, with winds in the 150 MPH range and at least two touchdown points rotating around each other. N3SOK, N3TOT, N3SCF, N3HYJ, N3VSC, N3REI, N3OXH, KE3FL, K3TAZ, N3XLY, N3MNM, N3GQK, N3JIA, and KG6TU - event coordinator. Net control was handled by N3REI, KG6TU, KE3FL, and N3GQK. N3REI was the first net control. N3GQK arrived and setup two antennas for both simplex and repeater operations and then did the lion's share of net control duties. Read more about the event elsewhere in NEWSWAVES. This was a perfect example of how ARES and SKYWARN work conjunctly.

Speaking of SKYWARN, talk to Charlie N3REI about helping out. There is a need for some operators who are home during the daytime (working hours). Also, Bill KE3RI has negotiated with Davis Instruments to obtain a discount for the purchase of their "Weather Wizard III" home weather station. If you are interested in obtaining one of these weather stations, give Bill a call.

Cycle Across Maryland (CAM) came around and through Carroll County during the week of July 22. Francis Scott Key High School and Western Maryland College were host sites respectively along the CAM Tour. WX3F, N3JIA, and N3MYJ helped with communications. N3JIA and WX3F worked at the Host site NCS, and N3MYJ worked at a rest stop on a couple of days. We all agreed that if we had no other obligations during that week, we would have enjoyed working the whole week. N3SOK, though, did take the time to work with the CAM Tour the whole week. It is interesting to work an event that consumes a great amount of time and energy from all those who participate. Very much simulating an emergency!

Kudos to Phil KE3FL for again obtaining the PSHR (Public Service Honor Roll). Don't forget the hidden transmitter (FOX) hunt on August 31st. We'll be looking for a mechanical fox!

73 de WX3F



Central Maryland Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: 4th Friday of the month at 7:30pm, at the Doctors Community Hospital, 8118 Good Luck Road, Lanham, MD (no meeting in December). Enter in the Outpatient Testing entrance across from the Emergency Room entrance behind the main building. Take the elevator to the 5th floor and exit left, the meeting room (DSE Room) is on the right.

Repeater: N3EZD/R 145.230 MHz.

Net: Every Tuesday, 9:30pm, 145.230 MHz repeater.

Mailing Address: Central Maryland Amateur Radio Club, P. O. Box 788, Greenbelt, MD 20768-0788.

Information: Oscar Ramsey, Pres - NV3G, (301) 262-3392.

CMARC's regular July meeting was held July 26th at Doctors Community Hospital. Items discussed included the Maryland/DC QSO party, CMARC's involvement in the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival and a Novice/Technician class for the Fall. Also discussed was the current status of a CMARC packet station.

Seven CMARC members assisted with the BRATS Hamfest on July 28th at Timonium, MD. Selling tickets at the Timonium Gate were Tony/N3JWT, Tonio/N3UIO, Chuck/N3ODK, Roger/KE3RW, Jim/KD3JA, Lester/N3NCH and Tom/N3BXW.

CMARC will operate a club station from the KD3JA QSO. We will take a break from operating around 5:30pm EDST for a family pot-luck dinner. CMARC will run a food booth at the upcoming Greenbelt Labor Day Festival. The featured item at the CMARC food booth will be "Brownies a la mode." Also sold will be Tropicana and Little Hugs drinks. In addition, CMARC will provide communication support for the Greenbelt Labor Day parade.

73 de Jim/KD3JA



Columbia Amateur Radio Association

Club meeting: 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m., at the Bethany United Methodist Church, Bethany Lane, Ellicott City.

Net: 147.135 repeater at 8:30 p.m. each Tuesday except for meeting nights.

Youth net: 147.135 repeater at 7:30 p.m. every Thursday.

Repeaters: 147.735/147.135 (cross-linked to 222.32/223.92); 147.990/147.390 (direct dial 911); 222.32/223.92 (cross-linked to 147.735/147.135); and 443.275/448.275.

Information: Larry Russo, Pres - K3TFU, (301)725-2840.

Mailing: P.O. Box 911, Columbia, MD 21044

There was no formal program for our July meeting. There was more discussion of Field Day results. Progress on the planning for the MD QSO Party was also discussed. We need a few more operators to volunteer to help out. As before, we will be operating from our usual location in the field behind the Clarksville School. We always have a great time during the QSO Party.

Our ARES/RACES members reported that they were put on alert during Bertha's sojourn through the Maryland area, but, thankfully, weren't needed.

Alan-N3AC, is again hosting the CARA Pool Party on Sept. 7th at his house in Columbia. In addition to swimming, there will be volleyball, Frisbee, etc.

Pres. Russo-K3TFU, urged members to volunteer for the upcoming FARFEST in Gaithersburg as well as for CARA's big event of the year-the October Hamfest. More info on the Hamfest will be forthcoming as the committee formulates its plans.

Finally, I have been remiss for not mentioning

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Owen Wormser, K6LEW

Sam Ruffin, KM4OI

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 - MICROSOFT PROGRAMS
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Tickets ARE REQUIRED when Renting Commercial Tables and Tailgate Space
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Local ordinances and Hamfest policy do not permit firearms or pornographic material to be displayed or sold at the show.
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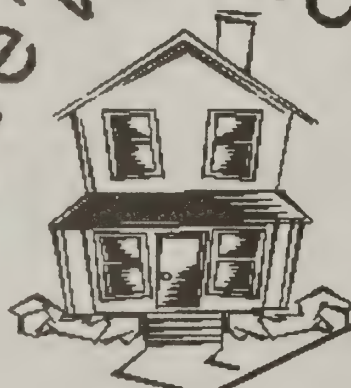
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in the last several issues that the CARA newsletter is now on the Web at the following URL: <http://www.access.digex.net/~jrmasi/caranews.html>

Until later,

73's, Jean Williams-KB3AOT



Digital Mid-Atlantic Radio Council

Next meeting: Quarterly (locations TBA).
Address: P.O. Box 73, Accokeek, MD 20607.

The DMARC Board of Directors met in Temple Hills, Maryland on Saturday, 27 July to continue discussions on the issue of digital mode band planning. DMARC Secretary (chief operating officer) Stan Statin, W3INK gave the introductory remarks to the group and delineated some of the current discussion issues facing us in our quest for a more effective digital band plan including AX-25 vs TCP/IP compatibility, manufacturer default transmitter frequencies affecting current users and ATV interference.

Representatives of the MetroVision Amateur TV Club were in attendance to discuss some of the interference problems they are experiencing in the 440 and 902 MHz bands from a variety of sources, AX-25 packet in particular. A detailed technical discussion ensued which enabled all parties to become more familiar with the various issues involved in how this interference comes to pass. A short article describing these issues will be prepared by Metrovision for future publication in AutoCall.

Metrovision also objected to the proposed bandplan for the 1.2 GHz amateur band. W3INK invited Tom (KO4OX) to submit an alternate suggestion/plan for the use of that band which can be considered during the course of this digital band planning exercise.

The digital bandplan work currently being undertaken is one of the main agenda goals of DMARC this year. Although the planning effort has taken longer than anticipated, we still anticipate being able to get a credible plan developed by this fall. Obviously, this will require the active participation and support from the entire digital community to ensure maximum benefit and reasonable accommodation to the bulk of the users. We are still working with TMARC to get an updated bandplan in place as soon as possible.

The next general DMARC meeting is tentatively scheduled for mid-October of this year. Further details will be announced in Auto Call and various packet bulletins prior to the meeting.

Don't forget the upcoming 15th Annual "ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference" to be held in Seattle, Washington from September 20-22, 1996. This annual conference is an international forum for radio amateurs involved in digital communications, networking and related technologies at all levels of experience.

For complete information on this great conference, point your web browser to <http://www.tapr.org> for on-line registration, hotel and travel data. Several DMARC members are currently planning to attend since airline rates are considerably lower now than in previous years.

73, Pete (WA3UMY) - DMARC PIO

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Fauquier Amateur Radio Association

Meeting: 7:30 p.m., 2nd Tuesday of the month except July, August and December. Shadow Lawn Recreation Center, Warrenton VA.

Breakfast: Last Saturday of the month at Western Sizzlin Warrenton VA 7:30 - 9:00 a.m.

Net: Every Wednesday, 9:00 p.m., 147.165 Mhz NZ4N Repeater.

Packet: KE4YVU FARA7 node 145.070 Mhz with direct connect to FBBS9

FBBS9 Bulletin Board 145.090 Mhz,

FARA9 node 145.090 Mhz.

Repeater: NZ4N/R 147.165 Mhz (+.600 Mhz)

Newsletter: TOROID, Monthly. Deadline for submissions: 20th of the month.

Information: Don, WY2V, (540)347-5745 or Larry, K4LLQ (540)347-7609. FARA, PO Box 752, Warrenton VA 20186.

Next meeting: Sep 10.

Well the tally is in, and FARA racked up 4990 points for Field Day. That's not a bad showing for a low-sunspot year. We had great fun, super publicity from the local newspaper, an interview on the local radio station. The hand cranked generator got the sweat-per-S-unit award, and the Airstream trailer belonging to KD4CAJ was again awarded the comfort-per-kilowatt hands down. Chuck, N4YXW has moved the BBS frequency from 20 meters to 7.0914 MHz. He's finding some great paths to Indiana and around the eastern seaboard. Connect in to FARA7 on 145.07 and give it a try.

Neil Spokes, AB4YK just returned from a trip to the Association of Amateur Radio Astronomers. He presented his paper on a theory for the origin of sporadic-E propagation. He had a great time, shot some video tape of some pretty famous folks, and will probably be the presenter at our September meeting. Great job Neil!

No meetings for the summer months, but we'll continue the club breakfast at Western Sizzlin' in Warrenton, 7:30 a.m. the last Saturday of each month.

FCC Novice, No-code Technician, and General class amateur radio licence courses with video tape will be taught Thursday evenings starting 6:45 pm, August 29, at the Crestar Bank in Warrenton VA. Classes will be held on 10 consecutive evenings every Thursday to be followed by an all-levels FCC Exam on November 7 at the same location. Morse code classes will also be presented.

For information concerning course materials, times, dates and/or FCC requirements call Neil, AB4YK, at 364 3861 or send e-mail to: spokes@mnsinc.com.

73, Mark, KD6AKC



Green Mountain Repeater Association

Meetings: Board of Directors, Last Monday of each month.

Repeaters: KD3VR-146.61 (Cheverly), K3GXF-146.88 (Greenbelt).

Luncheon: First Saturday of each month at the Fountain Cafe, in the Laurel Shopping Center Mall, US Route 1 (Baltimore Ave.) and Cherry Lane. Starts at 11:30 AM. Monitor 146.88 for Talk-In.

Nets: Old Gents Net meets on 146.88 each day at 9:30 A.M. and 6:30 P.M. Washington Adventist Amateur Radio Association Net meets on 146.88 each Thursday at 9:30 P.M.

Mail: P.O. Box 523, Bowie, MD 20718-0523.

Information: John Williams, N5SJZ, (301) 805-5761.

I am constantly amazed by the ingenuity, tenacity and sheer energy of GMRA members in keeping pace with the technological curve. No easy chore when you consider that we operate on a very

low budget. Totally dependent on membership dues, contributions and hard work, our extremely capable leadership HAS kept pace.

To operate our repeaters, funds must always be available for electricity, telephone services, insurance and maintenance. Through special membership drives, equipment donation sales, dues and membership contributions, we not only pay our bills, but through careful and prudent judgments by our Board of Directors, we saved sufficient funds to upgrade our repeaters and its support systems. Administratively as well as technically, GMRA has leaped ahead during the past 18 months to ensure that present and future membership continues to enjoy the services of the repeater systems. Lets take a look at that progress:

+ Membership increased by 57%. We currently have 211 members and continue to grow.

+ We built interface devices and activated "talking S-meters" on both repeaters to let members check their transmitter signal strength.

+ We activated auto patch and auto dial capability on the 88 repeater in addition to 61. We took advantage of per-minute billing instead of per-call billing, enabling us to enjoy auto patch on both repeaters at about the same cost we were previously paying for one!

+ We painted the woodwork and installed a new roof on the 61 shack, ensuring our repeater investment continues to be well protected from the elements.

+ We installed new commercial Cel-Wave 6 dB antennas on both repeaters ensuring continued trouble-free antenna service for years to come.

+ We installed new Andrew 7/8" hard-line on the 61 repeater, replacing older cable that was beginning to deteriorate.

+ We bought two commercial, continuous-duty, 100-watt Motorola Micor repeaters. These fully solid-state repeaters should be in operation by the

time you read this article. These repeaters keep pace with that technological curve. A major leap forward!

+ We published the GMRA News newsletter. Lauded by members, the newsletter also received praise from the editor of one of our widely read local newspapers.

Last, but certainly not least is the camaraderie among our membership, coupled with a reputation for congeniality throughout the local repeater community. If I had to select one area to boast about, it would be the helpful attitude of our members. Simply said, if you need help, you receive it!

In summary, members can rest assured we will continue to make every effort to keep pace with that never ending technological curve—to provide the best repeater service possible. GMRA is almost 25 years young. Please join us for the next 25 years!

Murray Green, K3BEQ



The Herndon Repeater Group

On-the-air meeting: Mondays at 9:00 pm on the Herndon repeater.

Repeater: N4FSC, 145.310 (Herndon)

Mailing: Herndon Repeater Group, P.O. Box 5073, Herndon, VA 22070-1964.

Information: Mike N4FXP, (703) 406-3158.

The Herndon Repeater Group (HRG) is a family-oriented ham radio club affiliated with the N4FSC repeater in Herndon, VA. Membership is open to all, and the club holds several social and operating events each year. Dues are \$20/yr for the entire family; members have access to the repeater's autopatch. All area hams are warmly invited to join our information net on Monday evenings at 9:00pm.

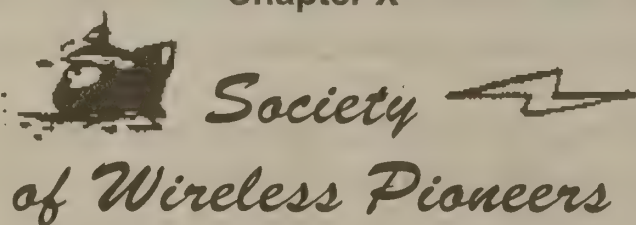
Everyone's pretty well recovered from Field Day (with the possible exception of our Field Day Chairman Nick, KD6ADY, who is still blushing over pulling an entire station off the table while rolling up the coax). In addition to the wireless visitors to the HRG Field Day Site, members of Cub Scout Pack 159 came up to see what Amateur Radio is all about. Two of the Cubs are already studying Morse Code, and are well on their way to the theory portion with a little help from their Dads.

HRG has always been a very social ham club, with several events each year including picnics, outings, and of course our Holiday bash each December. It's a great way for hams and their families to get together and share our hobby and have a lot of fun, too. The club is looking for a social coordinator to take over planning for these functions. It will be a lot of work, but well worth it; our social events are the high points of the ham year for HRG members, family and friends. If you're interested in taking on this challenging post, contact our president Mike, N4FXP at (703) 406-3158.

Mike, KD4ITN, has gotten into the swing of things as our new net manager, and is finalizing the net control roster for the rest of the year. If you're interested in becoming a net control station, contact him on any Monday night net.

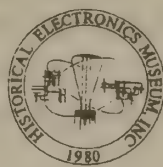
73 de Mike, N4PDY

Chapter X



THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION
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For Information Call
(703) 536-9537



Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: Second Wednesday of each month, 5:30 PM, In the Historical Electronics Museum, West Nursery Road and Elkridge Landing Roads, Linthicum, Maryland (Next to BWI Marriott Hotel).

Net: Monday 8:00 PM, 146.67(-)/224.24(-) MHz (courtesy of BARC).

Information: Gary Ryan, (410) 969-0410.

Mail: P.O. Box 746, Mail Stop 4015, Baltimore, MD 21203.

Street address: 1745 W. Nursery Rd., Linthicum, MD 21090.

The TBL-13 Progress Report

AM Modulator - Charlie Angel, AA3FB has completed the refurbishing, cabling and integration. Tone testing into the dummy load is in progress and when the testing is complete he will put it on the air.

Chirp/Hum - Heru Wamsley, W4WVV reported that the chirp has disappeared since the heavier filter capacitors were added to the oscillator high voltage. The hum is still with us and the team of Ernie Farkas, K3CBW and Charlie Angel, AA3FB has volunteered to track it down.

New Old Toys

A WW2 US Army Transmitter BC-610E has been donated to the Museum by member Cleo Bushy, K3IYJ. A lot of refurbishing and some parts replacement will be required to restore it to its pristine condition. HEMARC and the Museum would appreciate any volunteers for this project. Call Ernie Farkas, K3CBW if you are interested. [If you have experience with the BC 610 (or parts) it would be especially welcome - but all skill levels are needed.]

Heru Wamsley, W3WVV reported the acquisition of some underwater Video cameras. These low light level cameras will be an interesting addition to the HEMARC ATV station since they can essentially see in the dark.í

The Field Report

The excellent first field day by HEMARC was recapitulated. All the members were able to see the fun with a video tape replay of set up and tear down etc. All participants were very pleased with the results and attention received from passerby's. The all QRP scores were not gold medal but they were quite respectable for the first try. The fun and fellowship was gold medal quality. Field Day Chairman Lois Turner, KA3VVQ and her able assistants- take a bow!

HELP! PRE-WW2 DXCC QSL CARDS STILL NEEDED

HEMARC is trying to set up a display of at least 100 pre WW2 DXCC QSL cards. All cards loaned will be protected and returned to the owner after display. Contact Rol Anders, K3RA at 410-796-4792 if you have any of these cards. Or mail to Rol at: 6021 Old Lawyers Hill Road, Elkridge, MD 21227.

The September Meeting Notice

The September meeting will feature our ARRL Atlantic Division Director Hugh Turnbull, W3ABC. Please note that beginning with the September meeting the club will always meet on the second Tuesday of each month.

73 de Chip, W4PBG



Reminder - all submissions for
AUTO CALL

are due no later than
the 1st of the month prior to the
month of publication!!



Laurel Amateur Radio Club

A Volunteer Examiner
Coordinator

Meetings: 4th Wednesday of each month (except November & December) 7:30pm at 384 Main Street, Laurel Md.

Social: 2nd Wednesday of each month, except December (Call for directions).

Nets: 1st & 3rd & 5th Wednesdays, 8:30pm, on 147.225+, no tone.

Mail: P. O. Box 3039, Laurel, MD 20709-0039

Exams: 3rd Saturday of each month, to pre-register contact: John/WB3GXW (301) 572-5124 after 6 P.M.

Information: Jim/WI3N (301)725-6829 or Pud/W3DQI (301)498-6293.

Well, if you're as tired of the words "paradigm" and "venue" as I am, I promise I won't use them anymore in this article. I talked with Shirley, Roger/N3MIJ's WYF, and she reports they are on schedule, and will arrive tomorrow (Aug 1) in Rehoboth Beach, DE and he will be home in time to get this article out for the next edition. Everything has gone well on his CYCLE ACROSS AMERICA, and I'm sure Roger will have a few interesting anecdotes for these pages, and maybe more for the LARC gatherings.

At the July LARC meeting Dr. Martin Davidoff/K2UBC, author of the ARRL SATELLITE EXPERIMENTERS HANDBOOK, gave a very interesting presentation on the history of the OSCAR program, with a slideshow going back to OSCAR ONE. He is a neighbor of LARCer, Tim/N3TZH. They met several months ago when Martin helped Tim rescue his treed cat.

After the LARC had "done their thing" for the Fourth-of-July parade this year, we were encouraged to show up for the five o'clock program. We were honestly surprised to receive the HARRISON-BEARD TROPHY for public service in the Laurel area.

In July the LARC VE-teams had two very successful sessions, testing 17 folks in Laurel on the 20th, and then testing 25 at the hamfest at Timonium. The full battery of tests was available, and called upon, at both sessions.

The LARC will be teaching the NOVICE/TECHNICIAN class in September, and those interested are invited to pre-register (see the TRAINING page, elsewhere in this issue). The classes are FREE, and testing is available at the last class, scheduled for the Monday before Thanksgiving.

In September LARC will provide communication support for the Pallotti High School Cross Country Race, an event which we always count as our highlight of the year. The five kilometer course covers some rugged domain around the Rocky Gorge Reservoir; this is the 25th running of the event, which attracts cross-country teams from Delaware, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and of course Maryland and the District. Several times coaches have said to LARC that, if it weren't for our communications around this rough course, they wouldn't be back. (That's nice to hear, by golly!) Of course, we have a motorcycle-mobile (Duane/N3AUY) following the last runner, and usually he spots trouble long before it can be brought to the attention of the race officials.

In October we will have a SPECIAL EVENT. The club call, KB3BLK, will provide communications support for the first annual RIVERFEST in Laurel, which is also helping celebrate the 300th anniversary of Prince George's county. Look for us at the low end of the General subbands on 75, 40 and 20. Certificates available for your SASE.

Just heard the word that Phil/K3MEG won the semi-annual SOARING CLUB award for the soaring club in Howard County. Phil kept his airplane in the air for the allotted amount of time, landed it in the approved circle, and did it with no time left over. CONGRATULATIONS, PHIL!

Well, hope you all have a nice summer, what's left of it, and we all look forward to Roger's return, and to hear how he plans to top this one! Welcome Back!

73....PUD/W3DQI



The Maryland Apple Dumpling Radio Amateur Society, Inc.

Meetings: 2nd and 4th Thursdays - 7:00 P.M.
NBC Building - WKYS Conference Room,
4001 Nebraska Avenue, Washington, DC.

Nets: 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 9:00 P.M. on
145.45 MHz (PL-5A).

Repeaters: 444.100/449.100 MHz (PL-2A),
145.45/144.85 MHz (PL-5A).

WWW Address: <http://mvhsl.mbhs.edu/~fwright/MADRAS.html>

Mailing: P. O. Box 2468, Wheaton, MD 20902

Information: Larry Ziecheck - N3GKZ (301) 984-6113, Jean Blacik N3PLC (301) 984-6113.

Our annual Picnic and Barbecue on July 21st turned out superbly this year. The weather cooperated nicely and gave us a cool, breezy day for a change. Larry - N3GKZ, slaved over a hot barbecue whipping up mouth watering burgers and hot dogs. Other featured items on the menu included potato salads, macaroni salad, baked beans, green beans with mushrooms and garlic, deviled eggs, vegi platter, chips, cheeses, slaw, pickles, watermelon, cantaloupe, rich creamy deserts, nuts, and plenty of taco chips with hot dips. Ice tea and a variety of sodas accompanied all of the goodies. No one really checked their watch but we started munching at noon and were still at it until well after 6:00 P.M. We had a much larger attendance this year and everyone seemed to have a great time.

Michele - WK3X deserves a big hand again this year for providing her spacious back yard and

her wonderfully air-conditioned home for our picnic. She is a very gracious hostess and welcomed us back again next year to do it all over again.

It appears that August 22nd (Thursday) will be the scheduled day for our End of Summer dinner. We have had lots of suggestions so far but have not picked the restaurant as of yet. Watch for the August Bulletin.

Both of our repeaters are in peak condition. We have had relatively few problems over the past months and are looking forward to keeping it that way.

Our Thursday night Net is still going strong. With many of our members on vacation or out of town on business trips we have had fewer check-ins then usual. All our welcome to check into our Net at 9:00 P.M. on Thursday evenings. Quin - N3KGM, our Net Control, loves it when new people check in and say "hi".

Membership renewals were sent out the second week in July for the 1996-1997 period. We hope you all have had an interesting and fun-filled year with the club and can hardly wait to send in your dues.

73's Jean - N3PLC



Maryland Emergency Phone Net

Meetings: Nightly, 1800 Local, 3920 kHz
Directors: WA1QAA, W3DQI, K3ONU, NF3X (Alternate).
Manager: K3ORW; **Secretary:** WA3YLO;
Treasurer: KC3U
FAR Representatives: KC3ZJ, WA3FYZ

The Maryland Emergency Phone Net has started a training series for traffic handlers. Surprisingly, it is sort of parallel to the TRAFFIC

FUN series in the last several Auto Call's, and after (you) have copied the entire set of messages, a certificate will be available.

We sort of look at this series as TRAFFIC HANDLING 101, with perhaps a TH-202 to follow. Feel free to check in, copy along, ask questions, QSL the messages, and contribute to our training package.

Just in time to mention, the net will be very actively supporting the Simulated Emergency Test (SET) in October (the 12th and 13th this year, and MEPN will have its exercise on Saturday, the 12th). I hope I hear you there.

Also, starting in September, the MEPN will again be active on the first Tuesday of the month, providing long-haul RACES support across MD for their monthly training sessions. If you're not RACES/ARES, but would like to participate, tune in between 1900©2000 and help out!

The Baltimore Traffic Net (BTN) is continuing a very active life on 146.670 every night at 1830 Local. It is an interesting, well-run, and short net that provides good traffic handling and training for the Baltimore coverage of the machine. Always looking for more participants, and don't be afraid to ask, if you want to pass (or handle) your first piece of traffic....the next one is a piece of cake!

Not much more....hope to see you "on the air".

73....PUD/W3DQI

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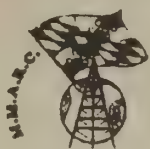
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The Maryland Mobileers Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: First Friday of each month at the AA Co. EOC, Crownsville State Hospital grounds Crownsville, Md.

Repeaters: WA3PJQ - 146.805 & 449.125 both in Millersville, Md. W3VPR - 442.3 in Annapolis - Joint usage AARC.

Social Breakfasts: 15 days (3 Saturdays) after club mtg, at Rick's Cafe in Odenton at 9 AM.

Mailing: MMARC, P.O. Box 935, Severn, Md. 21144

Nets: 2-Meter on 146.805 @20:30 local time every Monday, 10-Meter CW practice net @19:00 Monday on 28.230 MHz.

Information: H. John Kohl, KO4A, (President) 410-757-8148. Bill Ziegler KA6TYY (410) 987-2384.

was enjoyed by all. Below is the letter that should've, would've, could've been written by one of the attendees!!!

"Dear Mom & Dad,

"Just a letter from summer camp to let you know about all the fun I am having. The MMARC camping trip the weekend of June 7th was great! Twelve hardy campers made the trip to Skyline Drive.

"In honor of our being their, the 17 year cicadas came out to greet us. We spent many idle hours contemplating how many different ways they could be cooked. We decided to have a recipe contest, with each couple preparing their own dish, but gave up that idea when we could not find a volunteer to be the tasting judge. Where are little brothers when you need them??

"As planned (by everyone but them) Phil and Vicki arrived last and the cheery sound of Phil banging metal tent poles together while Vicki sipped on a beer and uttered words of encouragement echoed through the woods. There had been some little rain storms earlier, but nothing that a well prepared group couldn't handle.

"On Saturday everyone headed out for Skyline Drive National Park. With all the elevation changes, we experienced rain, hail, fog, and sunshine all in one day! While the rest of us had decided to check out the Park's restaurant for lunch, Rick (N3BUT) was determined to show us up by preparing his and Anne's lunch over an open fire at a picnic site. But when he turned his back, Anne, knowing how close the restaurant was (and that they had desserts) accidentally knocked the hamburgers into the coals. So we all had lunch together at the restaurant.

"Saturday night everyone had dinner together over the campfire (and under the tarp). Knowing that more rain would follow, everyone pitched in to prepare a dry site for Bill and Mary. (NOT!) They however did not show, leaving us all

Greetings from the Mobileers! No meeting was held in July do to the fourth of July weekend.

A reminder to all that the MMARC's September meeting will be at the Historical Electronic Museum on West Nursery Road and Elkridge Landing Road in Linthicum. A tour of the museum will begin at 1930 and will be given by Gary, W3GMY. The tour/meeting is open to all. Use the club's repeater for talk-in if you need some extra navigation aids! If you haven't ever been there, it is a great place to learn some history and see some great electronics systems.

The Mobileers will be holding a No-Code Tech Class starting in late September. Bruce, AA3KR, will be the head educator! There is no date or place set yet, but if you are interested, please contact Bruce at 410-437-1891 or let John or myself know.

Some of you might remember that the club had a camping trip in June up at Front Royal, VA. Though some of us were unable to break away from our routine to get there, it went off on time and

saddened, but with extra beer.

"Sunday we all headed home and several of us made a side trip to Harpers Ferry. There we had lunch and ice cream to strengthen us for the rest of the trip home.

"Bruce, AA3KR

"P.S. I thought I had mailed this earlier, but just found it in my underwear drawer here at camp. It seemed clean so I just put it in the envelope."

Well, that's all for this month.

73's, Bill/KA6TYY



**Metrovision
Amateur TV Club**
Fast Scan Color ATV

Meetings: Quarterly: Time and place TBD.

Repeater: WA9GVK/4 (video/audio) Input: 425-431 Mhz. Output: 438-444 Mhz. Accessible 144.970 Simplex FM Voice.

On-the-air: Sundays and Wed. 8:00 P.M.

Mailing: Metrovision, Inc., P.O. Box 8231, Falls Church, Va., 22041.

Information: Sam - N3GHY (301 430-3373)

Jim - KA4CKI (703 494-342)

Tom - KO40X (540-752-2100)

Rich - KA3BTD (301-843-1253)

ATV is really a great mode within the amateur band. You have full color, fast scan, and a live audience. Many of our members share their other hobbies with us over the air. Bruce WA9GVK has shown us on many occasions the construction of his model railroad layout. Gerald - KB4QGJ has shown us his antique ink pen collection and a turn of the century wooden doll that operated with a pull string. Paul - KF4FOR likes to demonstrate his magic tricks over the air. I have to say he is quite good at it.

Paul - KF4FOR attended a hamfest in England and brought home some goodies. A couple of World War II vintage receivers. He just couldn't resist them.

Speaking of Hamfests the Gaithersburg hamfest will be history by the time this article appears in Auto Call. I hope you stopped by our ATV booth and saw our demonstration and pictures.

In the early 70's our ATV repeater was computer controlled. By punching certain touch tone keys we were able to bring up various messages for display over the air. This was quite an accomplishment considering in the early 70's the availability of such equipment.

We have a lot of expertise and dedicated people who maintain, modify and update the repeater. If you have any questions about Amateur Television, give us a call on 144.970 FM simplex on Wednesdays and Sundays at 8 pm. That is when we have our nets.

On Saturday July 27th five of our ATV members (KO40X, KA4CKI, N3 UFN, N3GHY and KA3BTD) met with the D-MARC coordinating committee. We had a very constructive and educating meeting. Our ATV members expressed concern about packet being placed within the ATV bandwidth on 70cm. The D-MARC committee was very receptive and request that we get with them to do a formal write up for the AUTO CALL magazine. The article will appear in the October edition.

I'll be "seeing you" 73's Rich - KA3BTD



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month of publication!!



The Mid-Atlantic DX and Repeater Association

Meetings: Second Thursday of each month, rotating locations among Hagerstown MD, Frederick MD, Martinsburg WV and Greencastle PA.

Net: Tuesday evenings at 1930 local on 147.06.

Tech/Ops Forum: Wednesdays at 2030 local on 147.06.

Repeaters: Frederick MD: 147.06, 224.20, 448.125; Martinsburg WV: 147.345.

Mailing: 230 North Potomac St., Suite 2A, Hagerstown MD 21740

Information: Voice BBS 301-416-8447 (info Box 112) LandLine BBS (301) 416-8435

MADRA had enough stuff on the calendar to make this a very busy summer. This is being written as July winds down, so be sure to check with us at FARFest for any last minute bulletins on what we have been doing. We will be filling the role (and maybe the rolls, too) as Hospitality Committee for the FARFest workers on the gate, at talk-in stations and as otherwise directed.

The July meeting was a high point. About 16 of our hundred or so assembled at the Washington Spy Restaurant in Hagerstown for a great evening of good company, good food and a wide selection of tasty microbrews.

The Spy is located in the former bus station and has a great decor with a nice art deco/transportation motif. When MADRA gets together, of course, the conversational motif is Ham Radio and we talked about that from every angle. Bob, N3TXB, and Dee, N3VCF, and some of the other diners had a good stack of Field Day Fotos to circulate and stimulate the humors.

Our plans to participate in the CQ-sponsored VHF/UHF contest in mid-July didn't work out as

we had intended. Oh well, we can get a better score in the ARRL's next contest in September if we don't wear ourselves out with HamFesting before then.

As this column is written the activity getting ready for the MADRA HamFest is really heating up. "SweatFest96" is on track for a great exposition at Railroad Square in downtown Brunswick MD. The dealers at all the nearby HamFests have been liberally dosed with flyers to encourage them to come. The Brunswick American Legion has been scheduled to give us a comfortable indoor area where we can hide from the expected warm weather. The downtown merchants and the Railroad Museum are both lined up for extra hours so they can be open when the 'Fest is open. Our poster page was in the July issue. When you saw it we're sure you made plans to attend.

The August meeting was scheduled for a new and different location. This time it was the FireHouse Pub & Grill in Mount Airy MD. Another evening of fine food and choice microbrews was in the offing.

As to the September meeting, it is on schedule for Thursday, September 12. The location was not set as of the end of July so if you'd like to join us for food, fun and talk about any Ham's favorite subject, you will need to check in to the Tuesday night net. We are always glad to make both members and guests welcome.

73 DE N2CSQ/3



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Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: Second Thursday of each month, 7:30 p.m. (except December) Mt. Vernon Governmental Center 2511 Parker's Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308.

Nets: Every Tuesday at 9:00 p.m. Starts on 2 meters then moves to 10 meters on 28.408.

Repeater: WD4PDP 146.055 input / 146.655 output.

Mailing: Mt. Vernon Amateur Radio Club (MVARC) c/o Joe Salemi KR4CZ, P.O. Box 7234, Alexandria, VA 22307.

Information: John KI4HK, (703) 780-2882 or Julie KD4WSZ, (703) 799-9466 or Packet 145.650 KD4LST-1.

Field Day 96 is now in the memory books. About 30 members and guests turned out to set-up, operate, eat and tear down (though, not necessarily in that order). While the final scores were not too high, a really good time was had by all, and a learning experience was had by some.

A de-briefing session was conducted at the July meeting. This year's event was held at a new location: Boy Scout Camp Wilson, next to Pohick Park in southern Fairfax county. The Club thanks the Scouts for the use of the grounds.

Ham radio and the quick action on the part of several members lessened the severity of an accident at the July Fourth fireworks display at Lee District Park. When one of the aerial pieces detonated at near ground level, a pyrotechnic technician was injured by some of the exploding material. John, KI4HK, who was stationed nearby, alerted Steve, WA4EER, and Frank, N4GUS who got an ambulance and rescue team underway almost immediately. Other members of the Club provided communications support to crowd control, safety and logistics operations.

The club volunteer support for Coast Guard MARS station NNN0NCG has resumed limited operations. The station location on the base has been moved, the antennas refurbished and several successful phone patch sessions have been conducted by certified operators including WC4Q, KE4SKW, KE4IMI, KE4ALX. Training of additional will begin shortly and will be announced at the meeting, in the newsletter and on the net.

A new dual-band antenna has been installed and several problems that affected the 146.655 repeater were corrected. One suspected cause of some of the noise was the collection of joints in the telescoping mast portion of the antenna support. The joints are mildly corroded and when moved by the wind appeared to use some of the transmitted energy to generate a high noise level.

The joints were bonded with ground straps and hardware to correct this part of the problem. One end of the transmission line was trimmed and a connector was replaced. Hopefully, these repairs will correct some of the receiver desensing that has occurred in the past few months.

An as-yet unidentified, and unlocated, external noise still causes problems from time to time. The idea of installing a remote receiver in the Annandale area is still being pursued. The remote receiver would be connected to the repeater on Beacon Hill by a 440 MHz link and would improve coverage to the Huntington, Little River Turnpike and Route 66 areas.

Another licensing class will be held on Wednesday evenings, starting in September at the First Christian Church, King Street, Alexandria. Check Auto Call for additional details.

Club members will staff the Information booth at Farfest in Gaithersburg. The Club's tables will be stocked with a nice assortment of treasures, so stop by for a bargain. See you there. Till then,

73, Chuck W3HSW



Prince George's Wireless Association

Meetings: First working Tuesday of each month, 7:30 PM; American Red Cross bldg., 6206 Belcrest Rd, Hyattsville, MD 20782

Club Station: K3CEZ

Mailing: 4109 Kennedy St., Hyattsville, MD 20781

Information: Frank Holton - WA3ZMW
(301) 927-1245

PGWA held its regular monthly meeting on July 2, 1996. Frank, the Club President, WA3ZMW, presided and opened the meeting at 7:45 PM.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Officer reports were given along with announcements of upcoming Hamfests and special events,

Discussion of the past "Field Day" Activities held on June 22 and 23 was reviewed. Thanks to WA3ZMW for bringing his portable generator, to Dave, WB3KXL for setting up The 2 meter and 6 meter antennas and all the equipment he furnished.

Thanks to Charles, KA3COT for furnishing his rig and equipment, John, N3WLP helped in making bases for the vertical antennas.

WA3NSI, Jim, and Holly, N3FCA were visitors and brought their son and daughter along. Holly worked some stations on phone and Jim worked some CW on QRP, Ken, N3HLY, only participated on Saturday and helped to work some phone bands.

Frank, WA3ZMW, is sending to ARRL for video tapes to be shown at the meetings. See you on the first Tuesday Or the month.

73s from Ken Easton N3HLY



Quarter Century Wireless Assn. Chapter #91

Meetings: Neighbor's Restaurant, Cedar Lane and Park Street, Vienna, VA; third Saturdays; Noon. Business/Program Meetings: Odd-numbered months. (Come at 11:30 to chat; program begins at noon.) Informal/Ragchew Meetings: Even-numbered months.

Newsletter: Bi-monthly to all members.

Information: Dick Rucker (KM4ML), Secretary; 10426 Darby St., Fairfax, VA 22030-3603; 703-591-3279. Also on the VHF net.

VHF FM Net: Sunday 9 AM, 146.79MHz.

QCWA is an international noncommercial association of radio amateurs organized for the promotion of interest in Amateur Radio communication and experimentation, for the establishment and advancement of the radio art, and of the public welfare. Qualifications for membership are that one currently is licensed as an Amateur, and was licensed at least 25 years ago (continuous licensing is not required).

July, 1996, Meeting — President Tony Stalls (K4KYO) welcomed 25 chapter members and 4 guests to our regular odd-month program and business meeting, held at Neighbor's Restaurant in Vienna, Virginia.

Chapter Reports — Secretary Dick Rucker (KM4ML) and Treasurer Al Wheeler (WB4JJJ) reported. Bottom line: We are QUITE healthy, prosperous, active, and growing. We invite all those who are eligible for QCWA to contact a chapter officer about membership and our meetings.

"Elmer" Opportunity — John Willmuth (N4Q4Q) reported that a Woodbridge elementary school was given an HF station and is looking for an Elmer to come in from 3 to 5 PM one afternoon a week to help them get on the air. Interested?

Contact Irv (KT4DS) at 703-335-1029.

QCWA on Packet — “Bix” Bixby (WA3WQF), a guest at our meeting, said that he has set aside an area on his packet bulletin board (BIXBB on 145.03 MHz) for QCWA-related bulletins and files. Thanks for this, Bix! We are looking forward to having this capability as a further means of disseminating QCWA information. If you can’t connect to this BBS direct from your location, you probably can connect via the ROCKMD or RESTON-1 nodes.

Main Speaker — Chapter member Al Cammarata (W3AWU) gave a presentation about his DX operation from Indonesia during May through August of 1969. Amateur Radio operation had been authorized by the Indonesian Government in late 1968. Prior to 1968, legal amateur operation had not been authorized dating to when Indonesia had been a Dutch colony. During Al’s time on the air there were only five active Hams in the country. He was the only active Ham on the island of Sumatra.

Being rare DX was quite an experience, and working through the pileups was variously exciting, enlightening, and exasperating! Al worked 1,657 different stations in 126 countries, 32 states, and all continents using a dipole and a tri-band yagi mounted 15 feet up on the flagpole in the front yard of his house. This was done with relatively low power and electrical service that was not quite what we enjoy here in the states!

Al talked about the experience of being “on the other end” of DX pile-ups (until you’ve been there, you can’t really appreciate it!). He was actively chased by stations that most of us only dream of contacting!

Al brought along his meticulously annotated logs, plus many of the QSL cards from that time. Several of the cards were from Hams well known to us. One of those operators, John Swafford (W4HU), was at this meeting.

Al also told about some of his unique living and work experiences during his two-year assignment with the American Consulate in Medan. The talk was supplemented with some photographs and other visual aids.

Auction — Auctioneer Jim Wilcox (K4JAP) was only partly successful in relieving people of their money: some fine pieces of equipment and books went for ridiculously low bids! Thanks to Jack Kelleher, Ethel Smith, Lew Bradley, and Judi Booker (a guest), who donated items for auction. Their contributions added \$50 to our treasury.

ar 73 de Jim, K4JAP



Quarter Century Wireless Assn. Shenandoah Valley Chapter #137

Meetings: Third Wednesday of odd-numbered months, at 12:30 PM; Carper’s Valley Golf Club, 1401 Millwood Pike (Route 50 East), Winchester, VA; reservations suggested.

Information: Perry F. Crabill, Jr., W3HQP; (540) 662-7526.

Mailing Address: 225 Milam Drive, Winchester, VA, 22602.

E-mail: pcrabill.visuallink.com

Fifteen members and guests of QCWA Chapter 137 met at Carper’s Valley Golf Club on Route 50 east of Winchester, Virginia on Wednesday, July 17, 1996. A social period at 12:30 PM was followed by a buffet luncheon at 1:00 PM. The meeting was conducted by Vice President Charles Anderson, NF3X, in the absence of President Walter Johnson, WA4HVV.

After self-introductions by all present, Secretary/Treasurer Perry Crabill, W3HQP, read extracts from the rather lengthy minutes of the meeting of May 15; he also reported a treasury balance of \$198.96.

The possible deletion by ITU at WARC-99 of the present treaty requirement for Morse code proficiency for amateur licenses for operation below 30 MHz was discussed by Jack Kelleher, W4ZC, Vice President and president-Elect for QCWA National. Tony Stalls, K4KYO, candidate for National Director, also participated. They pointed out apparent inconsistencies between ARRL's formal position adopted last year supporting the requirement, and recent statements made by ARRL officials apparently favoring the deletion. The speaker was Charles Anderson, NF3X, masquerading as OE2ZAO from Austria. He had visited OE-land in May, and was given a one-month temporary license after paying 162 Austrian schillings. His talk was titled "Wild, Weird, and Wonderful Antennas I Have Known". Charlie's stories were mostly about his experiences while working on antenna installations on military aircraft at Glenn L. Martin during WW-II; he later worked for American Electronic Laboratories.

This talk generated several comments by others about military aircraft and their radio installations. Adjournment was at 2:47 PM, with the announcement that the next meeting would be at Carper's Valley on September 18.

Perry F. Crabill, Jr., W1QX

TRAFFIC FUN, from page 14

QUIZ: 1) When sending a message, what do you say (SSB), or, send (CW) between the preamble and address of a message? When sending a message, what do you say (SSB), or, send (CW) between each line of the address? When sending a message, what do you say (SSB), or, send (CW) between the phone number and the text?

ANSWERS:

- 1) nothing
- 2) SSB (*) (CW aa = next line)
- 3) break ('BT' with no space is the character for break)

* It's generally obvious when you finish the name and street. If a zip code follows the state, what else



Shenandoah Valley Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: First and Third Friday of every month at 7:30 p.m. SVARC Club House 2921 Grace Street, Winchester, Virginia.

Repeater: 146.22 In/ 146.82 Out.

Net: Shenandoah Valley Emergency Net (SVEN) 7:15 daily on 146.22/146.82 Repeater.

Mailing: P.O. Box 139 Winchester, 22604.

President: Fred Wetzel (W4KRT).

Info: Irvin Barb, W4DHU, 955-1745.

Internet home page: <http://www.w3ic.com/inet/svarc>.

June & July have been a busy month for the SVARC. Field Day was once again held at the SVARC club house and was well attended. Many contacts were made.

The SVARC also awarded three scholarships to students from area high schools. These \$500 scholarships are awarded annually to students pursuing degrees in electronics or computer science. This year's recipients are:

Continued next page

could come next but a phone number, and/or break. However, if no zip is given, a number could be zip of phone, so it's good to announce 'telephone'. This allows the receive station to move their pen/mill/computer to the text position.

DAILY 2-METER TRAFFIC NETS

BTN (Balt.TfcNet)	6:30 pm 146.67
NVTN (NoVaTfcNet)	7:30 pm 147.30
DC (Wash DC Net)	8:00 pm 147.36

Give a listen to a net and see what's it's all about. Call and/or write me for more information.

Geri Sweeney, N4GHI @ WA3TAI
Section Traffic Manager VA
703/360-3773

Jo Wodenscheck - Attending DeVry Institute of Technology, Columbus, Ohio

Jonathan Dubyk - Attending Virginia Tech., Blacksburg, VA

Mitchel Hoopes - Attending Virginia Tech., Blacksburg, VA

The 46th Annual Winchester Hamfest was held on Sunday, August 4th. Club members rose as early to man the gates. People came from miles around for not only the Hamfest, but the Clarke County Ruritan's famous Chicken and Beef BBQ. I think they sold out shortly after lunch this year! We'd like to thank each one of you who drove out to the country to attend! Hope you enjoyed your trek. Well, that's it for this month.

73 de KE4QJT/Laura Stewart



Southern Maryland Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: 2nd Friday of each month at 1930 ET at the PG County Police, Clinton Station, 6707 Groverton Drive, Clinton, Maryland.

Nets: Tuesday at 2000 on 147.15+ Repeater; Wednesday at 2000 on 1.865 (+/-QRM); Thursday at 2000 on 28.447 USB.

Repeater: WA3YUV/R 147.15+, Cheltenham, Md. Autopatch to 911.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 273, Cheltenham, Md, 20623

Information: Vic (WA3YUV) & Linda (KA3VNI), (301) 888-1388

Hard to believe that the summer is now behind us. The ringing of the school bell heralds the end of summer vacation for the kids and the beginning of a long-awaited vacation for the parents. We still have some good weather days ahead of us (all right, the summer hasn't been that bad) but it won't be too long before it turns again. Use this time to check the weatherproofing of your outside connectors, tighten those grounding points, and reseal those

cable entry points into your house. Don't forget to give that generator a quick pull to make sure that it will fire up when you need it, not like mine which takes about 600 pulls to start.

The SMARC September meeting is going to feature Frank Carson, N3OCW, who will be doing a presentation on natural radio phenomenon. This may answer a number of questions about why our radios work the way they do.

At the July board of directors meeting it was agreed that the club will establish a SMARC Ham of the Year award. This program is intended to recognize the SMARC member that best exemplified the spirit of amateur radio throughout the past year. All members are encouraged to nominate the individual they feel meets this criteria. Nominations should be made to the board of directors who will make a selection during the October/November time frame. The winner will be announced at the annual Christmas party and would be presented with a life membership to SMARC.

Speaking of membership, you should have received your new membership card by now with the new patch access codes. If you haven't, check with Vic, WA3YUV, to make sure you are current in the membership roster.

There have been some questions asked lately about the repeater site. We still don't have anything definitive about being forced to move but all indications at the present time are that we will have to relocate the repeater site due to the closure of the Navy Communications facility. Mike, N3RWF, is working on finding another site in the same general area. If you have any suggestions, please give Mike a call.

The board has recently decided to open our newsletter, the SMARC Sparks, to commercial advertising. If you know of an organization which would be interested in an ad in this membership newsletter, let a member of the board know so they can follow up.

Don't forget that on September 5th, our 10 meter net will once again resume operation after its summer break. Fire up that 10m rig and join us. We will be looking forward to hearing you on one of our nets soon. And that is the big news from southern Maryland. Be careful and we will see you here again next month.

Oh, PS, no, Dave still has not found a buyer for his house so he is still stuck with the president's job. Thanks, Dave!!

73, Greg - WA3FSC



St. Mary's County Amateur Radio Association

Meetings: Fourth Thursday of each month, 7:30 PM, at the Lexington Park library.

Repeater: K3HKL (146.64 MHz)

Packet: K3HKL.#SOMD.MD.USA.NOAM (145.75/145.01/223.58/440.975 MHz)

Lunch Bunch: Every Friday, listen on the 146.64 MHz repeater between 10-11:30 AM to find out where to meet.

Nets: - "St. Mary's ARES", every Monday at 8:00 PM on 146.64 MHz - "Bottom County", every Wednesday at 8:00 PM on 146.64 MHz.

Address: SMCARA, P.O. Box 743, California, Maryland 20619.

Newsletters: Complimentary copies are available at local Radio Shack stores.

The St. Mary's County Amateur Radio Association (SMCARA) is celebrating its fortieth anniversary this year! Established in 1956, the Association membership has done much over the years to advance the cause of Amateur Radio in the southern Maryland area - from participation in emergency service activities to supporting technology education in our public schools and a whole lot in-between.

We are very pleased to have the honor of having established the very first amateur FM repeater in

St. Mary's County way back in 1972... and it has been on the air continuously ever since. Initially operating under the W3PQT callsign for testing, we applied for and received our distinctive WR3ACP call in February 1974. When the FCC rescinded those calls a few years later, we decided to use our K3HKL club call and the repeater has sported that call ever since. The 146.64 MHz K3HKL repeater has been the focal point for almost every major club event since it went on the air - providing a gathering place for club nets, supporting the dozens of bike-a-thons and walk-a-thons, hosting the first (and still) open auto patch for all amateurs in this area and, last but not least, giving hundreds of local hams a friendly place where they can talk about their latest "project" or activity.

Over the years, we have been affiliated with the ARRL and its many activities which led to our receipt of a 25-year affiliated club award a few years ago. This has included the sponsorship of many license training courses and VE licensing exams. Many dozens of hams received their training and licenses as a direct result of SMCARA-sponsored events over the years.

Our finest effort to date has been the sponsorship of a robust technology education training support program in our local school system. This has included donations of equipment and talent to further the cause of education for 6th through 8th graders. The future of this hobby depends upon a steady infusion of youngsters who will bring a fresh perspective and resolve to the operating table.

Not standing on its laurels, the SMCARA is gearing up for the next decade as it launches an extensive public service campaign to support the emergency services of the community. An example of this is where the St. Mary's ARES component will sponsor a SkyWarn training class at the Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) headquarters building in Hughesville, Maryland on September 28th, beginning at 9 AM. The NWS will teach the BASICS I and II classes that day, culminating in attendees being certified

as "Spotters" in the SkyWarn program. For more info, contact BJ Drury (N3RVX) at 301-884-7175 or Larry O'Rourke (KB3AMG) at 301-475-8560.

All amateurs in southern Maryland are welcome to become a participating member of the SMCARA. We meet on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM at the Lexington Park library. Come on out and become a member of the most progressive club in southern Maryland!

73, Pete Butt (WA3UMY),
SMCARA Secretary/PIO



The Middle Atlantic FM and Repeater Council, Inc.

Meetings: Coordinating Committee (CC) normally meets the last Monday of each month, 19:30, in the OEP conference room of the Prince George's County Emergency Operations Center off Central Avenue. Talk-in on 147.18.

Address: P.O. Box 1022, Savage, Md. 20763-1022 for all correspondence.

E-mail: [HTTP://WWW.T-MARC.ORG](http://WWW.T-MARC.ORG).

Congratulations are in order! Owen Wormser, K6LEW, President of T-MARC, and long-time member of NVFMA, has been elected for a two-year term as the first president of the new National Frequency Coordinator's Council.

Also elected to the NFCC Board was Dave Shiplett, AC4MU, President of SERA, our neighboring coordinator to the south. Several proposed new coordinations in WV were received from SERA, and all look good.

Our new Internet site is up and running, but we'd like to have more visitors. Stop in and take a look at the above WWW address. The complete upto-the-minute T-MARC Repeater Directory should be on line very soon. Several other

coordination organizations around the country also have Internet Web pages, and some of them have copied pages from ours for inclusion on their own! We feel honored that they think enough of our ideas that they want to copy them.

We have received a few coordination applications via Web access, but some of them lack all the information we need in order to process them properly. So, we have to go back to the applicant for more info, which delays processing.

Please take advantage of the convenience of the Internet, but make sure you provide all the data we need so as not to delay your application.

Also, make sure we have the correct e-mail address for you, so we can respond quickly.

Interest in the 902 and 1240 MHz bands appears to be increasing, especially by the ATV community. Although we have been sort of following the ARRL band plan for 1240 MHz, we don't have an "official" band plan for 902-928.

We are now beginning to look more closely at these and the higher UHF and microwave bands and would like to hear from anyone who has some coherent suggestions for their development and use by FM, ATV, digital and weak-signal users.

Please send your ideas to the above addresses by the end of September.

The T-MARC Annual Meeting and election of officers for the next year will be coming up this fall. Watch for the announcement of time and location (and if anyone would like to volunteer a place, please contact our president ASAP!)

Finally, we note with sadness the passing of Ralph Delligatti K3CMY, who guided T-MARC as president in the early 1980's. Ralph retired to Florida a few years ago.

73, Gary, W3DTN, T-MARC PIO



Vienna Wireless Society

Meeting: 7:30pm second and fourth Fridays of the month at the Vienna Community Center.

Nets: Pow-Wow nightly at 9 pm. on 28.444 MHz Slow speed code, nightly 8:30 pm on 28.390 MHz. Vienna Emergency Net, Wednesday 7:30 pm 146.085/146.685

Repeater: K4HTA 146.085 in/146.685 out

Information: Paul, AB4CY, (703) 560-2779

Mailing: P.O. Box 418 Vienna, VA. 22183

It's been a very quiet summer so far, almost like ten meters. One activity that attracted attention was the vanity call sign program. More than a few members have applied for old call signs and now sport them like old friends. Since this area attracted so many transients the club now has call signs from almost all call areas and we have to learn to associate new numbers with old faces.

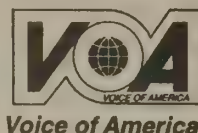
Our fourth of July Vienna festival went well. Jeff, W4NFA, showed a series of kids how to send their name in Morse code. A lot of people wanted to know if using the repeater was like cellular phone.

We have a President's picnic near the end of August each year. The affair is social and is a chance for the XYL to come along and see who you hang out with at meetings. This year we had some really QRP gear on display. We've been working on a theme for Winterfest next year that will concentrate on the new ham who is a little afraid to take the plunge and maybe doesn't have the resources to go the usual route. QRP might be a way of putting some excitement back into getting your feet wet in ham radio.

We've acquired our youngest member yet, Ben, KF4KJQ. Ben is 10 years old and we wish him the best. At mid-scale, our Vic Clark FAR Scholarship winner, Larry, AD4FX, was chosen for a second

year. Congratulations Larry. And our oldest active member, Lou, KQ4EY will be 92 in September. Many happy returns Lou.

73, Paul AB4CY



Voice of America Amateur Radio Club

Meetings: 2nd Friday at noon in Room 7239B, Wilbur J. Cohen Building, 330 Independence Ave SW., Washington, DC.

Repeater: K3VOA (146.34 MHz Input, 146.94 MHz Output).

Silent Key Announcement - Ryland V. Watkins, KC4RQ

Ryland Watkins, KC4RQ, a retired radio broadcast engineer and computer specialist at the Voice of America and the U.S. Information Agency, passed away, peacefully, in his sleep on July 4, 1996. He was 53 years old. The cause of his death was cardiac arrest.

Ryland's career with VOA and USIA spanned more than 27 years.

He was known for his direct and simple approach in solving complex problems, his extensive knowledge of radio broadcasting, and his ability to apply that knowledge to the ever-changing field of computers. But most of us will remember him most for his quick, dry wit.

As one of his colleagues remarked, "He was a good man. May God rest his soul in peace."

He will be sorely missed.

Al Brown, WA3FYZ/ZF2AB,
President, VOA Amateur Radio Club



Woodbridge Wireless, Inc.

Meetings: Second Tuesday of each month at Springwoods and Chaucer, Lake Ridge, VA.

Net: Monday nights at 2000 on 147.24 with 224.78 link repeater on 147.24 MHz, 144.99 MHz simplex PL-100 repeater 444.90 MHz, repeater 224.780 MHz, packet lan on 145.07.

Mailing: PO Box 112, Woodbridge, VA 22194

Information: Jim Stearns, KC4ZHQ (703) 670-3480.

CHASING DX

Plans have been announced for a full scale Dxpedition to Bouvet Island (3Y). A two week operation is planned for December 1997/January 1998 with four complete stations operating around the clock on CW, SSB, RTTY, and satellite. I'm sure we will hear more about this one during the next year.

WWI ANNUAL CHRISTMAS/ HOLIDAY PARTY

It's not too early to mark your calendar for this great WWI event. The tentative date is the evening of DECEMBER 6, 1996, tentatively at the BLACK FOREST INN (note change in place). As usual, this will replace the December monthly meeting. There will be door prizes (we are looking for donations), great food and drink, and a fun program. To help with this event or to donate a door prize, contact Jim, KC4ZHQ. So mark your calendar NOW!

COORDINATED TRANSMITTER SEARCH

On Sunday, August 18 at 1:00 pm, we will conduct a coordinated exercise to develop a club-wide capability to employ all of our skills together to locate a hidden transmitter in the least amount of time possible. The exercise will be similar to a rabbit hunt except for one important difference—

we'll all be working together rather than working on competing teams. Participants will take compass readings from their residences while a single roving search team does the close-in work to find the transmitter. Only the search team will be driving around the county looking for the transmitter based on direction information supplied by the rest of us.

POTOMAC MILLS RACE TO BE FIT

WWI provided emergency communications support to Potomac Mills who sponsors the "Race To Be Fit. in June" In addition to being prepared to assist if there had been an emergency the amateur radio operators provided information on the progress of the race to the Race Director. There were no emergencies although two walkers who arrived at Potomac Mills after everything was shut down did cause some problems. But Andy, KF4KHC, working his first event of this type, responded by following the walkers with his car until they completed the walk. Other participants were OP, KF4TE; Aaron, KD4NFB; Jim, WD4AIR; John, N4LJS, Bob, KR4KF.

FIRECRACKER 4/INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE July 4, 1996

The Woodbridge Wireless Inc., Amateur Radio Club provided emergency communications support to the Prince William Runners Club for the four mile run and the two mile walking race and to the Dale City Chamber of Commerce Independents Day Parade. The club participants were Dale, WA2IKI; Denis, WD4KXB; Ray, AA4SI; Aaron, KD4NFB; Ed, KD4KBT; Larry; WD4EAT; Joan, KD4ADP; Bob, KR4KF and Dave, KT4SC, drove the Emergency Communications Vehicle (ECV). Fortunately there were no emergencies. In addition to providing emergency assistance, WWI members track the first male and female runners and the last runner. The first runner ran the four miles in 20:55, not as fast as radio waves. The race went off without a hitch and the Prince William Runners and several of the runners thanked us for the good work.

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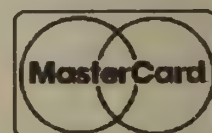
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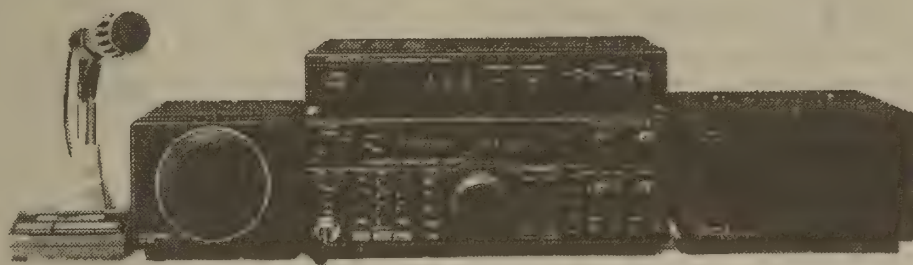
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Estate sales for Widows assistance handled by a FAR club will be published without cost.

Your full name and address must be provided with each ad but need not be published. No ads will be accepted over

the telephone and all ads must be prepaid. Ads that will be running for longer than 1 month must be accompanied by a letter stating the length that the ad is to be run. Since no effort is made to investigate advertisers, no warranty can be implied. Copy **MUST** be received by the 1st day of the month prior to the month of publication. Send all commercial and non-commercial advertising and Shack Sales to:

John Queen, Auto-Call Editor
755 Woodland Way, Owings, MD 20736
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FOR SALE: Centreville (VA) QTH: 3 BR, 2 bath Rambler, 2 car garage, 1.7 acres, nice neighborhood, convenient to Rt. 29, 28, I-66. With house goes 48' Rohn tower with TA-33 + 2m beam. 101' AB-105 tower with 4el 20m and 2el 40m beams. Ham shack in basement with 220v wiring. Lived here 21 years, retiring away from area. Buy from owner. \$175,000. Bud Smith, W4YE. 830-3195. [10/96]

FOR SALE: Palomar Engineers 1.8-54 Mhz Preamplifier \$50.00, Tri-Ex W-67 crank-up tower with electric motor winch 67 feet, \$850.00, CDE Ham II Rotor System \$250.00, JPS DSP Audio Filter NF-7 \$150.00, all items pick-up only. Call Willie, WIZX between 8 to 10:30 pm at 301 645 5584. [09/96]

FOR SALE: Kenwood TS-130S (80-10 m, incl. WARC bands), VF0-120 Remote VFO, MC-35S mike, and MFJ-941E Antenna Tuner, all in excellent condition; great rig for portable, mobile, or second station use, \$550 obo. Ted, N4XX, (703) 780-6397 (before 10 pm, please). [09/96]

FOR SALE: Rohn 45G tower, seven straight sections \$600, Rohn SSV look-a-like 130 foot self supporting tower, sections 7N-IWB, on ground, can deliver \$2500., Yeasu 2700RH 2m/70cm mobile, excelent condition w/box \$345., Create Quad-pod tower, CR-30 with Rohn TB-3 thrust bearing \$225. Dell-Star video transmitter/receiver, models DS503/8-PLL and DS-602A, 900MHZ, FM color & audio call Dave N3EJT 301 474-7405. [09/96]

FOR SALE: YAESU FT-703R 440MHz Handheld w/ standard duck, wall charger and standard battery pack. >>>> \$100. YAESU FT-103R 220MHz Handheld w/ standard duck, wall charger, original manual and standard battery pack. >>>> \$130. YAESU PA-3 Mobile Power Adapter (for FT-103 or 703R) >>>> \$25. HUSTLER 220MHz 5/8 wave magmount antenna w/ 15' cable >>>> \$25. 440Mhz 4 element directional antenna >>>> \$45. All equipment listed above is in EXCELLENT CONDITION. Please contact in the evenings Jeff Potter, KD4NEX, 4506 East Marcia Court, Alexandria, VA 22309-3928 (703) 360-1955 (BEFORE 9 PM). [09/96]

FOR SALE: EZ Way crank down and over RBS-40 tower. With ground post, dig out, KLM KT 34A triband plus CD44-II rotor and 175 feet control cable. All \$900.00. Also have 4 element 220 beam, 3 Synder wideband dipoles, B&W all band. H-P counter, UHF signal generator to 457 MHz. New leader scope in box, digital MTR's, Westinghouse Precision AC/DC meters. Two remote coax antenna switches with 125 ft cable. B&W SSTV with accessories all \$50.00. Much, much more. Quitting after 64 years. Anything not sold will be given to Antique Wireless Museum. "Larry", W3MSN, (301) 894-3977. Oxon Hill, MD (2 miles off beltway). [09/96]

WANTED: SWAN 350 External Power Supply and Cable. Fixing up to be available for Novices. Ken Anderson - W4JQT 941-475-3172 - 998 Bay Vista Blvd. Englewood, FL 34223. On Packet send to W4JQT @ WD4NKZ Venice, FL. [10/96]

WANTED: Apple I microcomputer for museum, KK4WW. (540) 231-6478 / 763-2321. [06/97]

FOR SALE: Icom AT-500 automatic antenna tuner. Interfaces with most Icom HF rigs. Excellent cond. \$350. John, KAØSEY. (301) 855-0198. [07/96]

WANTED: ARRL Advanced Class video good condition, low price. Bill, N1SGI (401) 397-5917. 13 Kennedy Rd, Foster, RI 02825. [09/96]

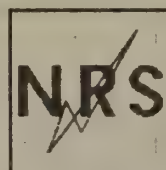
WANTED: Model 100 Tandy computer good condition. Call Bob W3GVH (301) 593-0406. Silver Spring, MD. [10/96]

REMINDER !!

All Shack Sales ads must be received no later than the 1st day of the month prior to the month of publication.

All ads must be paid in advance.

No Shack Sales Ads will be accepted over the telephone.



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[SWP]

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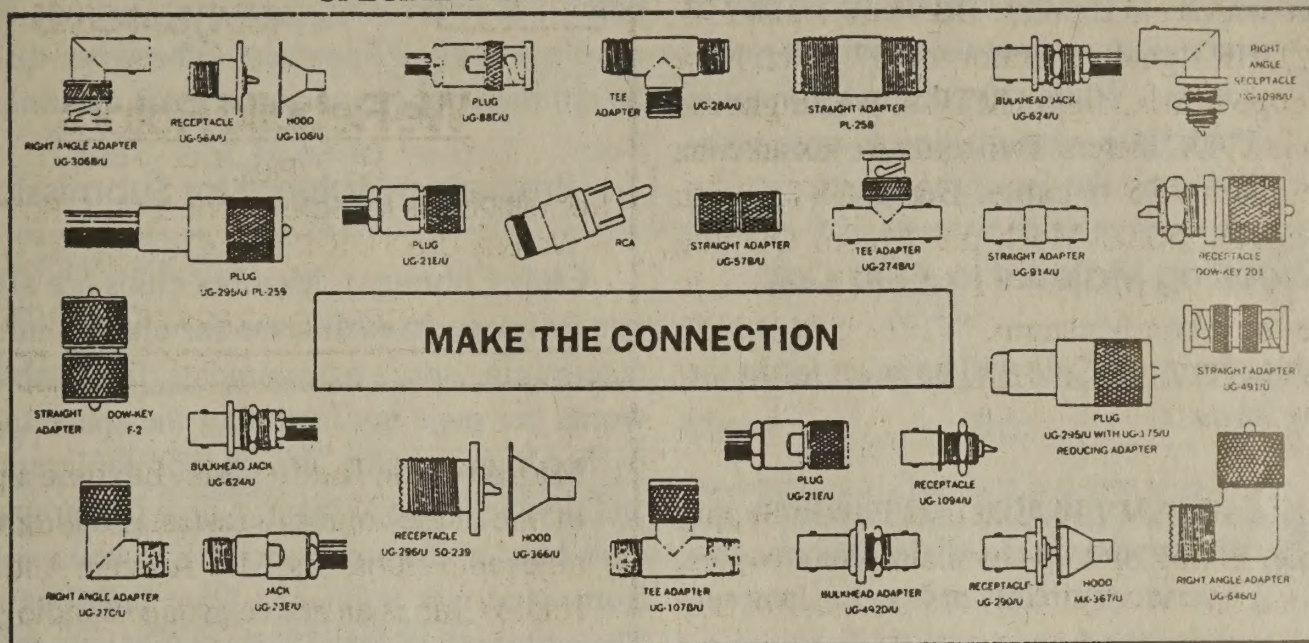
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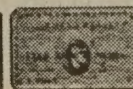
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Deadline: The deadline for ALL submissions to *Auto Call* is the 1st day of the month prior to the month of publication. When submitting via regular mail, time your mailing to ensure delivery by the 1st of the month.

Submitting Material to *Auto Call*

Submissions for *Auto Call* will be accepted in the following formats:



Electronically: Submissions are accepted via any of the major on line services directly or over the Internet. Use the format exactly as follows:

Internet - JohnQueen@AOL.com

America On Line - JohnQueen

AppleLink - johnqueen@aol.com@internet#

BitNet - johnqueen@aol.com@cunyvnm

CompuServe - INTERNET:johnqueen@aol.com

Connect - johnqueen@aol.com

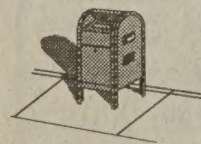
Delphi - internet"johnqueen@aol.com"

FidoNet - To johnqueen@aol.com<CR><CR>

GEnie - johnqueen@aol.com@inet#

MCI Mail - mbx: johnqueen@aol.com

Prodigy - johnqueen@aol.com



Regular Mail: Mail typewritten or computer generated hard copy to: John Queen, Editor, *Auto Call* Magazine, 755 Woodland Way, Owings, MD 20736. Ensure that

your printed material is dark enough for scanning.



Computer Disk: Submissions are accepted on 3.5" or 5.25" computer disk, in either Macintosh or MS-DOS format, using Word, WordPerfect, or standard ASCII text files. Write your name, telephone number, and club name on the disk. Submit graphic files (club logos, etc) in an EPS or TIFF format. Please verify the readability of your com-

puter files before sending. If you want your computer disk returned immediately, include a SASE envelope with .32 postage. Otherwise, disks will be returned only in person at FAR meetings.

Preparing Material for Submission

Club Columns: Member clubs are allocated one full page in each issue for club columns. In determining space requirements, figure about 700 words per page not including the space taken up by headings, photos, etc. Indent paragraphs .25" and double space to begin a new paragraph. Send club header information **ONLY** when different from what was published from previous month. The editor reserves the right to edit any submitted material for space, content and/or applicability.

Hamfests/Events: Member clubs are allocated one full page per year to promote one club sponsored hamfest, convention, or special event. Submit clean black & white camera ready copy only by mail. Master copy should be in black ink on white paper and should be in proper page ratio, (Copy space is 7" wide by 9" high). Copy can be reduced or enlarged as necessary. Electronic submissions of Hamfest ads will not be accepted.

Photographs: The editor will select the best photograph submitted for the cover each month. Photographs should depict club members, club stations, or amateur radio related events that are current and noteworthy. Clubs may also submit photographs for inclusion with their club column. Photographs will be used in columns when space permits. Either B&W or color photos can be used. For each photograph submitted, write your name, phone number, and club name, along with a description of the photograph on a piece of paper, and tape it on the back of the photograph. Do not write on the back of your photo. If you want your photos returned immediately, include a SASE envelope with sufficient postage. Otherwise, photos will be returned only in person at FAR meetings.



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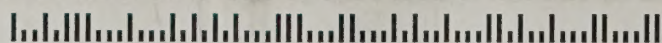
Area Club Meetings - September 1996

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
1	2 DOSARC	3 Antietam PGWA	4 BARC Montgomery	5 AnneArundel	6 Mobileers Shenandoah	7 Green Mtn.
8 Metro Comm	9 Carroll Co.	10 Fauquier Frederick Woodbridge	11 FAR - VA HEMARC	12 MADRAS Mid-Atlantic Mt. Vernon	13 VOA Vienna So. Maryland Alexandria	14 North Point
15	16 OVHA	17 Antietam Arlington	18 BARC Goddard QCWA 137 Montgomery	19 AnneArundel	20 Shenandoah	21 Capital City QCWA 91
22	23	24 Columbia	25 Moose Laurel Carroll Co.	26 MADRAS St. Mary's	27 Central MD Vienna	28
29 Adventist	30 Green Mtn. TMARC					



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